

# Daily News 12 / 10 / 2018

## **EU fuel labelling: clearer information for consumers and operators**

Today, a new harmonised set of fuel labels will appear across Europe. They will give drivers better information on the suitability of fuels for their vehicles wherever they travel in the EU, helping them avoid misfuelling and informing on the environmental impact of their choice. This initiative is taken on the basis of Article 7 of the Alternative fuels infrastructure Directive of October 2014 and in line with the Commission's [Action Plan on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure](#), adopted in November 2017, which sets out a number of support actions to accelerate the roll out of infrastructure, increase investments and improve consumer acceptance. It also complements the Juncker Commission's proposals "[Europe on the Move](#)" for a clean, safe and connected mobility. A full [press release](#) and [fact sheet](#) explaining the new labels are available online. (For more information: Anna-Kaisa Itkonen – Tel.: +32 229 56186; Lynn Rietdorf – Tel.: +32 229 74959)

## **Plan Juncker: 40 millions d'euros pour des petites et moyennes entreprises innovantes au Luxembourg**

Le Fonds européen d'investissement (FEI) et la Banque et la Caisse d'épargne de l'État (BCEE) ont signé hier un nouvel accord sur un portefeuille de prêts de 40 millions d'euros afin d'améliorer l'accès au financement des petites et moyennes entreprises (PME) innovantes au Luxembourg. Cet accord bénéficie du soutien du Fonds européen pour les investissements stratégiques (EFIS), au cœur du Plan d'Investissement pour l'Europe, [le plan Juncker](#), et d'[InnovFin](#), le programme européen qui soutient l'innovation dans les PME. Cet accord devrait profiter à une centaine d'entreprises dans le pays. Carlos **Moedas**, Commissaire chargé de la recherche, de la science et de l'innovation, a déclaré: *«C'est une excellente nouvelle pour les petites et moyennes entreprises luxembourgeoises innovantes, qui n'ont parfois besoin que d'un petit coup de pouce financier pour transformer leurs idées en projets concrets à haute valeur commerciale. Les entreprises innovantes à travers l'Europe peuvent s'attendre à un soutien européen encore plus important pour développer de nouveaux produits et se développer dans le prochain budget à long terme de l'UE, notamment avec les nouveaux programmes Horizon Europe et InvestEU. »* Le Plan **Juncker** a déjà mobilisé plus de 344 milliards d'euros d'investissement dans toute l'Europe et soutient 793,000 entreprises. (Un communiqué de presse est disponible [ici](#). Pour plus d'informations: Christian Spahr – Tél.: +32 229 50055; Sophie Dupin de Saint-Cyr – Tel.: +32 229 56169)

## **Slovakia: less traffic congestion and better connectivity with neighbouring countries thanks to EU investments**

Over €380 million from the Cohesion Fund is invested in two transport projects in Slovakia, aiming to upgrade the motorway network. EU-funded works will provide solutions to congestion problems and improve road connections in

the north-west and north-east parts of the country. Commissioner for Regional Policy Corina **Crețu** said: *"These two projects will improve quality of life in Slovakia, with faster, more comfortable journeys, less traffic congestion and better connections within the country. And the Slovak economy will also directly benefit from these projects, with positive spillovers for trade, tourism and growth."* €312 million is invested in the construction of a section of the D1 motorway between the towns Lietavská Lúčka and Dubná Skala, near the city of Žilina, in the North of the country. This section is part of the future dual carriageway D1 from Bratislava via Žilina and Košice to the border with Ukraine, on the Rhine-Danube corridor of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). The project also includes the construction of the Višňové tunnel, which will be about 7.5 km long and soon the longest tunnel in the country. Then, over €71 million is invested in the construction of a section of the D3 motorway in the mountainous north-western part of the country. The section will run in parallel to the road passing through the city of Čadca, which faces heavy congestion due to the situation of Čadca as an opening gate to traffic coming from the Czech Republic and Poland. This new EU-funded road will contribute to alleviate traffic congestion in the city, for the direct benefit of the inhabitants. Both projects should be operational by end 2020. (For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615, Sophie Dupin de Saint-Cyr – Tel.: +32 229 56169)

## **2018 Consumer Markets Scoreboard: trust of Europeans in services still needs improvement**

Today, the European Commission published the 2018 Consumer Markets Scoreboard that monitors how EU consumers rate the performance of 40 goods and services sectors. While the overall trust in markets has followed a positive trend since 2010, the report reveals that only 53% of consumers trust that businesses in the services sectors comply with consumer rules. On a positive note, the report concludes that the East-West gap in consumer trust is slowly closing. Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, Věra **Jourová**, said: *"Consumer trust is growing, but there are still too many consumers that have bad experiences in certain markets. In April 2018, we presented a 'New Deal for Consumers' to strengthen enforcement of consumer rights and give consumers new means to defend their rights. The possibility to launch a collective action should give consumers more trust that they can defend their rights and push businesses to better respect the rules."* The key findings of the 2018 Consumer Markets Scoreboard suggest that there has been little improvement compared to 2016, although the trend has remained positive since 2010. Notably, the report concludes that the East-West gap in consumer trust is slowly closing as markets in Western Europe continue to perform better for consumers, while on average the biggest improvements this year in performance are reported in Eastern Europe again. Improving consumer protection has been high on the Juncker Commission's agenda. The Commission proposed in April 2018 a [New Deal for Consumers](#), which will empower qualified entities to launch representative actions on behalf of consumers and introduce stronger sanctioning powers for Member States' consumer authorities. A press release and some [factsheets](#), are available [online](#). (For more information: Christian Wigand – Tel.: +32 229 62253; Mélanie Voin – Tel.: +32 229 58659)

## **EU Battery Alliance: Major progress in establishing battery manufacturing in Europe in only one year**

One year on from the [launch](#) of the European Battery Alliance (EBA), the [Commission Action Plan](#) is in place, the first pilot production facilities are being built and further projects are announced to establish the EU as the lead player in the strategic area of battery innovation and manufacturing. For Europe, battery production is a strategic imperative for clean energy transition and the modernisation and competitiveness of its industry and automotive sector. This will, at the same time, be providing a boost to jobs and growth, stimulate research and innovation and prepare the European industry to support climate commitments and targets set by the EU to tackle climate change also in the context of the Paris Agreement. Moreover, the Commission's 'New Industrial Policy Strategy' goal is to make the EU the world leader in innovation, digitisation and decarbonisation. Today Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič is hosting a high-level meeting with Member States and CEOs to present main achievements and to discuss next decisive steps. *"I am impressed to see how strong a kick has been created by the European Battery Alliance. As we mark its one year anniversary, we will show how various pieces of puzzle are coming together thanks to collaborative work by the Commission, the EIB, governments and industry. This will also be a unique opportunity to discuss next decisive steps to make Europe the lead player in the strategic area of battery innovation and manufacturing."* said Vice-President Šefčovič ahead of the meeting. Internal Market Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska added: *"This alliance is at the heart of our industrial policy. A strong battery industry is a perfect fit for our ambition to promote clean mobility. E-cars are the standard example, but we're also already thinking about how the battery alliance could be useful for trucks, sea shipping and ferries. If Europe wants to lead and compete with other big industrial players around the world, we need to hurry up."* The meeting will be followed by a press point at **16h30** with Vice-President Šefčovič and his counterparts from Germany, France, Poland and Sweden. Watch it live on [EbS](#). A [press release](#) and a [Q&A](#) will also be available online. (For more information: Anca Paduraru – Tel.: +32 229 66430; Lucia Caudet – Tel.: +32 229 56182; Lynn Rietdorf – Tel.: +32 229 74959; Victoria von Hammerstein – Tel.: +32 229 55040)

## **Blind and visually impaired EU citizens gain easier access to books across EU borders**

As of today, books, magazines and other printed material will be more easily available in accessible formats for all blind and visually impaired persons and across the EU. This follows the [ratification](#) of the [Marrakesh Treaty](#) by the EU, which was finalised on 1 October 2018. As part of the [Digital Single market strategy](#), the new rules create a mandatory and EU-wide exception to copyright rules. Vice-President for the Digital Single Market Andrus Ansip said: *"This Treaty is a real step to improve social inclusion, access to culture and entertainment, of people who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print-disabled. They will allow special formats of print material – such as braille or daisy – to be made and disseminated for people with print disabilities."* Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society

said: "Today marks an important breakthrough for more inclusiveness for blind and visually impaired in the EU. Finally, they not only gain easier access to books and other published works necessary for work or pleasure, but can also exchange them across the EU. Without the prior authorisation of rights holders, fast access to more and more diverse content will be guaranteed." The Marrakesh Treaty itself was adopted at the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in 2013. The EU legislation on the [Marrakesh Treaty](#) was proposed by the Commission as part as the [ongoing modernisation](#) of the EU copyright legislation. (For more information: Nathalie Vandystadt – Tel.: +32 229 67083; Joseph Waldstein – Tel.: +32 229 56184)

### **Sustainable Development Goals: High level multi-stakeholder platform presents input to the Commission Reflection Paper 'Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030'**

On Thursday 11 October, the Commission's high level multi-stakeholder platform on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) met for the second time. The Platform members adopted a joint contribution to the Commission's Reflection Paper 'Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030', which will be presented soon as part of the [Future of Europe debate](#) launched by President Juncker. The Platform's contribution will help the Commission in the ongoing preparation of the Reflection Paper and its future work in this field. Commission First Vice-President Frans **Timmermans**, who chairs the Platform, said: "It is so encouraging to see such a broad group of stakeholders coming together and agreeing on the way forward on implementing the SDGs – from Birdlife Europe to BusinessEurope we have managed to get everybody on the same page. This is a minor miracle, and is good news for people and for the planet." Vice-President Jyrki **Katainen**, responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, added: "This is Europe at its best: building consensus among various stakeholders, on the single most important topic for our future: sustainability. I am grateful for this crucial contribution, from which we should all learn." The Platform suggests, among other things, that the EU develop an overarching Sustainable Europe 2030 strategy to guide all EU policies and programmes. A press release is available [here](#) and the full contribution of the Platform is online [here](#). (For more information: Alexander Winterstein – Tel.: +32 229 93265; Tim McPhie – Tel.: +32 229 58602)

### **State aid: Commission approves extension of Danish tonnage tax scheme to new types of vessels**

The European Commission has approved under EU State aid rules the extension of the existing Danish tonnage tax scheme to additional types of vessels (including, for example, cover guard vessels, vessels servicing off-shore installations and vessels for raising, repairing and dismantling windmills). The Commission decided today that those types of vessels are involved in maritime activities that are subject to the same legal requirements and competitive conditions as maritime transport and therefore approved the extension of the scheme to these vessels under EU State aid rules (the Commission's 2004 the [Guidelines on State aid to maritime transport](#)). The decision also confirms that Denmark will amend certain aspects of its existing tonnage tax scheme to align it with the Commission's current interpretation of the [Guidelines on State aid to maritime transport](#). In this

respect, Denmark will amend its tonnage tax scheme to ensure that it applies only to genuine maritime shipping activities by limiting revenues from non-core activities to an acceptable level. The Commission assessed the amended Danish tonnage tax scheme under the [Guidelines on State aid to maritime transport](#) and concluded that it is in line with EU State aid rules.

Commissioner Margrethe **Vestager** in charge of competition policy, said: *"Denmark's revised tonnage tax scheme will help the shipping industry remain competitive on the global market. It will preserve jobs and promote high environmental standards in the maritime transport sector. The scheme complies with the Commission's State aid guidelines and contains new safeguards to ensure equal treatment of European shipping companies and avoid distortions of competition."* The full press release is available online in [EN](#), [FR](#), [DE](#), [DA](#). (For more information: Lucía Caudet – Tel. +32 229 56182; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344)

### **State aid: Commission approves €50 million public support for broadband network project in remote rural areas of Lithuania**

The European Commission has approved, under EU State aid rules, €50 million of public support to the Lithuanian state-owned network operator "Plačiajuostis internetas" for the extension of the public wholesale-only backhaul network ("RAIN"). Access to the RAIN infrastructure will be provided to third party network operators and service providers on equal and non-discriminatory terms. The backhaul network will be deployed in remote rural areas in Lithuania where no equivalent infrastructure is in place or planned by private investors in the near future. The measure, which aims to facilitate the deployment of privately funded access networks providing download speeds of at least 30 megabits per second, is in line with other extensions of the RAIN infrastructure previously approved by the Commission under EU State aid rules. The Commission assessed the measure under its [2013 Broadband Guidelines](#) and concluded that the measure complies with EU State aid rules since the positive effects of the scheme on competition in the Lithuanian broadband market outweigh any potential distortion of competition brought about by the State aid. The scheme complies with the Digital Agenda for Europe and the 2025 objectives for high speed internet connections set out in the Commission's Communication on a [Gigabit Society](#). More information will be available, once potential confidentiality issues have been resolved, on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the [State Aid Register](#) under the case number SA.49614. (For more information: information: Lucía Caudet – Tel. +32 229 56182; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344)

### **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Italmatch Chemicals by Bain Capital**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of Italmatch Chemicals of Italy by Bain Capital of the US. Italmatch Chemicals is active in the manufacture of specialty chemicals. Bain Capital is active in private equity investment in companies across several industries. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because the companies' activities do not overlap. 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.9037](#). (For more



*information: Lucía Caudet – Tel. +32 229 56182; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)*

### **Mergers: Commission approves the acquisition of SI Group by SK Capital**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the proposed acquisition of Schenectady International Group, Inc. (“SI Group”) by SK Capital Partners, LP (“SK Capital”) through SK Capital’s portfolio company Addivant USA Holdings Corp (“Addivant”), all of the US. SI Group and Addivant are both suppliers of specialty chemicals and intermediates, active globally. SK Capital is a private investment firm. It intends to combine the activities of SI Group and Addivant after the acquisition. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns given the presence of alternative competitors in the limited markets where the activities of SI Group and Addivant overlap. The Commission also analysed the vertical links arising from the transaction in relation to a number of chemical intermediates and concluded that the operation is unlikely to lead to competitors being unable to access inputs and/or customers. The transaction was examined under the normal merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission’s [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.9017](#). *(For more information: Lucía Caudet – Tel.: +32 229 56182; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)*

### **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of joint control over APA by CK Asset Holdings and CK Infrastructure Holdings**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the proposed acquisition of joint control over APA which comprises Australian Pipeline Trust (“APT”) and APT Investment Trust (“APTIT”), both of Australia, by CK Asset Holdings Limited (“CKA”) and CK Infrastructure Holdings Limited (“CKI”), both of Hong Kong. APA owns and operates natural gas transportation and energy infrastructure assets across Australia. CKA is a multinational corporation with diverse activities including, inter alia, property development and investment, and infrastructure and utility asset operation. CKI is a global infrastructure company that has diversified investments in energy, transportation and water infrastructure, waste management, waste-to-energy, household infrastructure and infrastructure related businesses. The Commission concluded that the proposed transaction would raise no competition concerns because of the negligible actual and foreseen activities of APA in 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.9100](#). *(For more information: Lucía Caudet – Tel.: +32 229 56182; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)*

### **Eurostat: Industrial production up by 1.0% in euro area**

In August 2018 compared with July 2018, seasonally adjusted industrial

production rose by 1.0% in the euro area (EA19) and by 0.8% in the EU28, according to estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In July 2018, industrial production fell by 0.7% in the euro area and by 0.6% in the EU28. In August 2018 compared with August 2017, industrial production increased by 0.9% in the euro area and by 1.2% in the EU28. A press release is available [here](#). (For more information: Lucía Caudet – Tel.: +32 229 56182; Mirna Talko – Tel.: Mirna Talko – Tel.: +32 229 87278)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A Europe that Protects: Commission to discuss election interference in the digital age

On 15 and 16 October, Commissioner for the Security Union Julian **King**, in collaboration with the European Commission's Security Union Task Force and the European Political Strategy Centre, will host a [High-Level Conference on 'Election Interference in the Digital Age: Building Resilience to Cyber-Enabled Threats'](#). Commissioners Dimitris **Avramopoulos**, Věra **Jourová** and Mariya **Gabriel** will also speak at the event. The High-Level Conference will gather leading experts and political figures from around the world to discuss questions relating to election security and how best to tackle the associated challenges, particularly in view of the upcoming 2019 European Parliament elections. It will be followed by a closed workshop with Member States, bringing together national electoral commissions and cybersecurity officials to exchange best practices and promote cooperation with a view to better securing election life-cycles in the digital age. Over the past years, the Commission has taken a number of legislative measures to that end, and most recently in his [2018 State of the Union Address](#), President Jean-Claude **Juncker** proposed new rules to better protect our democratic processes from manipulation by third countries or private interests. The press point with Commissioner King, former Secretary General of NATO Anders Fogh Rasmussen and Head of the European Political Strategy Centre Ann Mettler will take place on Monday at 15.30 CET (BERL, 5<sup>th</sup> floor) and will be available to follow on [EbS](#). To register for the press point, please contact [Katarzyna.kolanko@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Katarzyna.kolanko@ec.europa.eu). More information on the event is available [online](#). (For more information: Natasha Bertaud – Tel.: +32 229 67456; Katarzyna Kolanko – Tel.: +32 229 63444)

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

[Calendar](#) – Commissioners' weekly activities

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# 2018 Consumer Markets Scoreboard: trust of Europeans in services still needs improvement

While the overall trust in markets has followed a positive trend since 2010, the report reveals that only 53% of consumers trust that businesses in the services sectors comply with consumer rules. For goods, the figure is slightly higher at 59%. Consumer trust in services and goods' markets has not improved compared to the 2016 scoreboard. Telecoms, financial services and utilities (water, gas, electricity, and postal services) remain particularly problematic areas for consumers in most EU Member States. On a positive note, the report concludes that the East-West gap in consumer trust is slowly closing. Also, services such as personal care services (hairdressers, spas), holiday accommodation and packaged holidays benefit from a high trust from consumers.

*"Consumer trust is growing, but there are still too many consumers that have bad experiences in certain markets, for instance when buying real estate or a second-hand car." said Věra Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. "In April 2018, we presented a '[New Deal for Consumers](#)' to strengthen enforcement of consumer rights and give consumers new means to defend their rights. The possibility to launch a collective action should give consumers more trust that they can defend their rights and push businesses to better respect the rules."*

## **Key findings of the 2018 Consumer Markets Scoreboard**

- **Compared to 2016, there has been little improvement, although the trend has remained positive since 2010.** Mortgages, water supply, gas and electricity services have improved most over the past two years, but they remain among the least trusted market, with the exception of gas services.
- **Markets in Western Europe continue to perform better for consumers, while on average the biggest improvements this year in performance are reported in Eastern Europe again.** This suggests that the East-West gap in how markets work for consumers is slowly closing. The Commission's and the Member States' ongoing activities on the issue of the [dual food quality](#) should be able to further improve the situation in this respect.
- **Internet provision and mobile telephone services are still the most problematic for consumers,** with 20.3% and 17.5% having faced problems in these sectors respectively in the past year. Other areas mentioned by at least 10% of consumers include: TV subscription, fixed telephony, sales of ICT and electronic goods, train and urban transports, second hand cars, real estate, postal services, new cars, car rental and car repair services.
- **Financial services are the sector where consumers suffer the highest**



**detriment (financial loss or waste of time) in case of problems.** At least 35% of consumers having faced problems in home insurance, mortgages, loans and credit, electricity and water supply report severe detriment as a result. Other areas where consumers facing problems report high levels of detriment are airlines, investment products, and car insurance.

- **Real estate and second hand cars are the least trusted sectors by consumers.** Only 38% of consumers trust that real estate service providers comply with consumer protection rules and 36% of consumers do so for the second hand car sector.

## **Commission actions to improve consumer protection and trust**

Improving consumer protection has been high on the Juncker Commission's agenda. The Commission proposed in April 2018 a New Deal for Consumers, which will empower qualified entities to launch representative actions on behalf of consumers and introduce stronger sanctioning powers for Member States' consumer authorities. It will also extend consumers' protection when they are online and clarify how EU law to clarify that dual quality practices misleading consumers are prohibited.

Under the EU Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) [Regulation](#), the Commission together with consumer authorities have launched several enforcement actions to make sure businesses fully respect EU consumer rules. A recent example of such an action includes the improvement of [Airbnb](#) 's terms and conditions.

## **Background**

The Consumer Scoreboards provide an overview of how the Single Market works for EU consumers. Published since 2008, they aim to ensure better monitoring of consumer outcomes and provide evidence to inform policy.

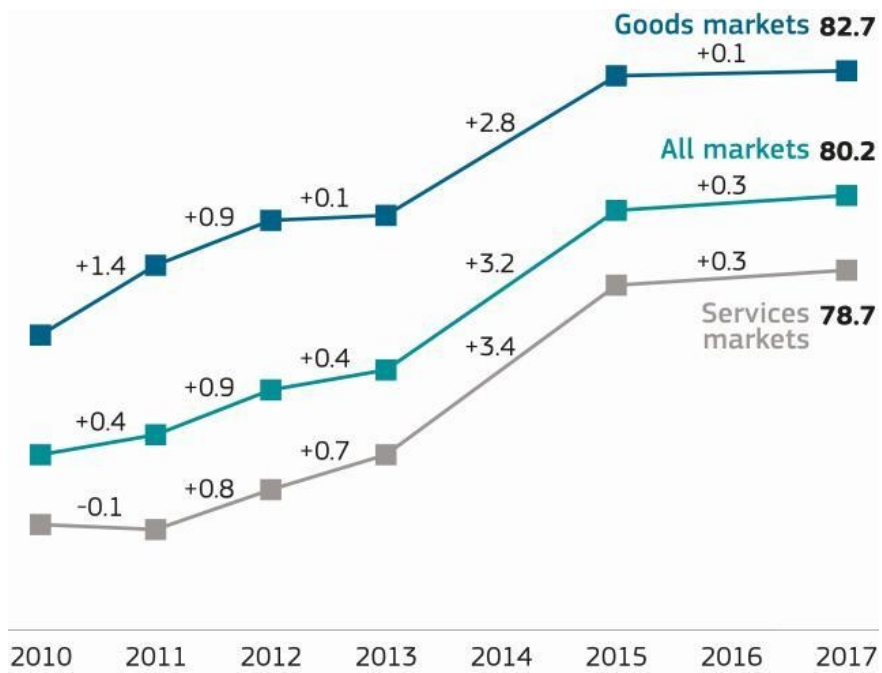
There are two types of scoreboards, published in alternate years and based on representative EU-wide surveys:

- The **Consumer Markets Scoreboard** tracks the performance of over 40 consumer markets based on key indicators such as trusting that sellers comply with consumer protection rules, comparability of offers, the choice of retailers/suppliers, the extent to which markets live up to consumer expectations, and the degree to which problems encountered in the market cause detriment. Other indicators, such as switching and prices, are also monitored and analysed.
- The **Consumer Conditions Scoreboard** monitors national conditions for consumers in three areas: (1) knowledge and trust, (2) compliance and enforcement and (3) complaints and dispute resolution. It also examines progress in the integration of the EU retail market ([2017 Consumer Conditions Scoreboard](#)).

## **For further information**

### **Market Performance Indicator, 2010-2017**

## Consumer scoreboards



## Services markets

### Top 3 performing



**84.9**

Personal care services  
(e.g. hairdressers,  
nail studios, etc.)



**84.1**

Holiday  
accommodation  
(e.g. hotels)



**82.6**

Packaged holiday  
and travel tours

### Bottom 3 performing



**73.1**

Real estate



**75.0**

Investment products,  
private personal  
pensions and securities



**75.8**

Mortgages

## Goods markets

### Top 3 performing



**85.3**

Spectacles and lenses



**85.1**

Small household  
appliances



**84.6**

Dairy products

### Bottom 3 performing



**75.5**

Second hand cars



**80.4**

New cars



**81.3**

Meat and meat  
products

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## EU fuel labelling: clearer information for consumers and operators

Alternative fuels can help reduce Europe's air quality problems, much of which are caused by transport emissions. However, the growing diversity of fuels available on the European market means that drivers, businesses and fuel station operators need clearer information on fuels sold at filling stations. From now on, when customers arrive at a public filling station of any Member State, they will notice new EU-wide harmonized fuel symbols on fuel dispensers and fuel nozzles. The same harmonised, easy-to-read, clear and simple labels will also be compulsory for newly produced vehicles and will be shown on the fuel-filler caps. These new labels do not replace existing names and brands of fuels, nor quality, safety, and performance recommendations. The labels are based on industry standards and have been developed by European standardisation bodies with the participation of industry, consumer and civic society representatives.

This initiative is taken on the basis of Article 7 of the [Alternative fuels infrastructure Directive of October 2014](#) and is in line with the Commission's [Action Plan on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure](#), adopted in November 2017, which sets out a number of support actions to accelerate the roll out of

infrastructure, increase investments and improve consumer acceptance. It also complements the Juncker Commission's proposals "[Europe on the Move](#)" for a clean, safe and connected mobility.

The new labels are divided in to three groups:

1. **Gasoline-type fuels:** marked by an "E" inside a circle: E5, E10, etc ("E" stands for specific bio-components (ethanol) present in petrol);



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2. **Diesel-type fuels:** marked by a "B" inside a square: B7, B10, XTL, etc ("B" stands for specific biodiesel components present in diesel, the XTL stands for synthetic diesel and indicates that it is not derived from crude oil);



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3. **Gaseous-type fuels,** mentioning their specific subtype within a rhombus/diamond: e.g. CNG, LNG, LPG and H2 (hydrogen);



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In the case of newer vehicles, the labels will also be visible in the owner's manual and they may also appear in the electronic handbook available via a vehicle's infotainment center. Besides being visible in all public refueling stations, they should also be visible at vehicle dealerships. The new labels will be deployed in all 28 European Union member states, EEA countries (Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway), and also Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey.

## Background

Today, transport still relies on oil for a large part of its energy needs. Energy efficiency in transport and effective transport management can substantially contribute to reduce emissions and oil consumption. One way of doing so is investing in alternative fuel solutions, which can help decarbonise transport by gradually substituting the fossil energy sources which are responsible for the CO2 emissions from transport. Research and technological development have led to successful demonstrations of alternative fuel solutions for all transport modes. Market take-up, however, requires additional policy action. To solve this issue, in 2014, as part of

the Clean Power for Transport strategy, [Directive 2014/94/EU](#) on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure was adopted, aiming to facilitate the development of a single market for alternative fuels for transport in Europe.

The Directive also called for a way for setting up appropriate consumer information on fuels, including a clear and sound indication of the compatibility between different fuels and cars. The call for better consumer information arose from the multiplicity of fuel choices becoming available on the market, in particular with the roll-out of new alternative fuels.

In view of this increasing choice of fuels facing consumers, the Directive mandated the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) to come up with industry-wide standards that would improve existing information. CEN adopted on 12 October 2016 standard EN 16942, "Fuels-Identification of vehicle compatibility-Graphical expression for consumer information", which enters into force 2 years later, on 12 October 2018. A new standard "EN 17186:2019" laying down harmonized identifiers for power supply for electric road vehicles is expected to be adopted early 2019.

In May 2018, the Commission also adopted an Implementing Regulation on Fuel Price Comparison which establishes a common methodology to facilitate the comparison of prices of the different fuels in a common unit (euro/ national currency) taking into account the energy content of the fuel and the energy efficiency of the vehicle.

#### **For more information**

Questions and Answers: [MEMO/18/6102](#)

[Directive 2014/94/EU](#)

[Action plan on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure](#)

[https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/cpt\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/cpt_en)

<http://www.fuel-identifiers.eu/>

<https://www.cen.eu/work/products/Labels/Pages/default.aspx>

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## **CALENDRIER du 15 octobre au 21 octobre 2018**

*(Susceptible de modifications en cours de semaine)*

**Déplacements et visites**



**Lundi 15 octobre 2018**

Eastern Partnership Foreign Affairs Council; Agriculture and Fisheries Council

Ministers meeting

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Gaston Reinesch, Governor of the Central Bank of Luxembourg, and Mr Henri Grethen, Member of the European Court of Auditors, for a working lunch.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** receives Mr Andres Fogh Rasmussen, Chairman of the Transatlantic Commission on Election Integrity.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** receives Mr José Maria Alvarez-Pallete, Chairman and CEO of Telefonica.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** in Luxembourg: chairs the Foreign Affairs Council.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** in Luxembourg: chairs the Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting

Ms Federica **Mogherini** in Luxembourg: chairs the Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** in Tartu, Estonia: speaks at the Tartu Hugo Treffner Gymnasium.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** in, Tartu, Estonia, speaks at the Tartu Tamme Gymnasium.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** receives Mr Pavlo Klimkin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** receives Mr László Palkovics, Minister for Innovation and Technology of Hungary.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** receives Mr Andrew McDowell, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB).

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** receives Mr Mikael Damberg, Minister for Enterprise and Innovation of Sweden.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** receives Ms Claudia Dörr-Voß, State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** receives Ms Jadwiga Emilewicz, Minister for Entrepreneurship and Technology of Poland.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** receives Ms Delphine Gény-Stephann, Minister of State attached to the Minister for the Economy and Finance of France.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** chairs the European Battery Alliance Summit, in Brussels.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** delivers a keynote speech at the [SRB Conference 2018 – 10 years after the crisis: are banks now resolvable?](#).

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** receives Mr Nils Melngailis, Chairman of the Board of Luminor.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** receives Mr Gottfried Leibbrandt, CEO of SWIFT.

Mr Johannes **Hahn** in Luxembourg: participates in the Foreign Affairs Council and the Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** in Berlin, Germany: meets Mr Peter Altmaier, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy of Germany; and delivers a speech on [“European trade policy in turbulent times”](#), at the Humboldt University.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** in Luxembourg: participates in the Agriculture and Fisheries Council.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Luxembourg: meets Mr Jari Leppä, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, on the margins of AGRIFISH Council.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** in Zaventem, Belgium: delivers the opening speech at the [Anniversary of EU Free Movement of Workers and Social Security Coordination](#).

M. Pierre **Moscovici** à Paris, France: rencontre M. Thierry Pech, Directeur général de Terra Nova.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** receives Mr Torsten Akmann, Secretary of State for the Interior of the German Land of Berlin; Mr Andy Grote, Senator for Interior Affairs and Sports of the German Land of Hamburg; Mr Georg Maier, Minister for the Interior of the German Land of Thuringia; and Mr Boris Pistorius, Minister for Internal Affairs and Sport of the German Land of Lower Saxony.

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Luxembourg: participates in the Agriculture and Fisheries Council.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** in Rotterdam, The Netherlands: participates in the 88<sup>th</sup> International Session of the European Youth Parliament; and participates in a [Citizens' Dialogue](#) at the University of Rotterdam.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** in Lublin, Poland: delivers a speech at the Family Business Congress

Ms Věra **Jourová** in Prague, Czech Republic: delivers a speech at the [EU Diversity Charters Annual Forum](#).

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** receives Mr László Palkovics, Minister for Innovation and Technology of Hungary, in Brussels.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** receives Mr Jernej Pikalo Minister for Education, Science and Sport of Slovenia, in Brussels.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** receives Mr Ron Mobed, CEO for Elsevier.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** attends a ministerial lunch debate with EU ministers responsible for research organised by the Austrian Presidency in Brussels.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** receives Mr Pedro Duque, Minister for Science, Innovation and Universities of Spain.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** receives Mr László Palkovics, Minister for Innovation and Technology of Hungary.

Mr Julian **King** receives Mr Ricken Patel, Founding President and Executive Director of Avaaz.

Mr Julian **King** receives Mr Boris Pistorius, Minister for Internal Affairs and Sport of Lower Saxony.

Mr Julian **King** receives Mr Andreas Könen, Director General of the Cyber and Information Security Directorate (attached to the Federal Ministry of the Interior for Building and Community of Germany), in Brussels.

Mr Julian **King** introduces the High Level Conference “Election Defending Democracy in the Digital Age – Building Resilience to Cyber Enabled Threats to Elections”, in Brussels.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Brussels: delivers an opening keynote speech at the [FT-ETNO Summit 2018](#); participates in a [panel discussion on the challenges and opportunities of bringing coding and tech related activities to schools](#) in the context of the EU Code Week; participates in a roundtable with senior representatives of the Healthtech industry; receives Mr Ricken Patel, CEO and Founder of [Avaaz](#); receives Mr Stefan Kölbl, CEO of [DEKRA](#); delivers a keynote speech at the [High-Level conference ‘Election interference in the digital age – Building resilience to cyber-enabled threats’](#); and delivers an opening speech and participates in discussions at the event [“Contre la désinformation : quelle stratégie européenne des médias et des langues ?”](#).

## **Mardi 16 octobre 2018**

Ministers meeting

General Affairs Council; General Affairs Council (Art. 50)

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** together with Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** and Ms Marianne **Thyssen**, participates in the [Tripartite Social Summit](#).

Mr Andrus **Ansip** in Tallinn, Estonia: participates in the Digital Summit; delivers a speech; and meets with Dr. Megan Woods, Minister for Government Digital Services of New Zealand; with Dr. Janil Puthucheary, Senior Minister of State Ministry for Communications and Information of Singapore and Mr Kim Boo-kyum, Minister for the Interior and Safety of the Republic of Korea.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** in Lille, France: participates in the [12th World Forum for a Responsible Economy](#) with Jeremy Rifkin, President of the Foundation on Economic Trends and Mr Xavier Bertrand, President of the Hauts-de-France Region (France).

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** receives Mr Linas Linkevičius, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** receives Mr David Schwimmer, CEO of the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG).

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives Mr Michele Geraci, Undersecretary of State for Economic Development of Italy.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives Mr Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce of the United States.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** delivers a speech on "[Why Asia Matters](#)", at the EU-Asia Centre, in Brussels.

Mr Neven **Mimica** in Rome, Italy: participates in the World Food Day organised by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** gives a keynote speech at the Entso-e Power Coordination Europe Conference, in Brussels.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** receives Mr Volkmar Denner, CEO of Robert Bosch GmbH.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** participates in the event "What kind of wine for tomorrow?", co-organised by the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) and MEP Eric Andrieu, in the European Parliament, in Brussels.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** participates in the Dinner Assembly on "Europe's Unknown Champions: The Specialty Feed Ingredients Industry between Innovation & Regulation", in the European Parliament, Brussels.

Mr Dimitris **Avramopoulos** in Athens, Greece: attends a demonstration by TOXI-Triage, a Horizon 2020 project.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** meets Ms Beate Hartinger-Klein, Federal Minister for Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection of Austria, in Brussels.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** meets Ms Lia-Olguța Vasilescu, Minister for Labour and Social Justice of Romania, in Brussels.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** reçoit M. Fabien Lehagre, Président de l'Association des Américains Accidentels (AAA).

M. Pierre **Moscovici** reçoit M. Henri de Thoré, Président de BREIZ Europe et M. Michel Bloc'h, Président de l'Union des Organisations de Producteurs de l'Ouest Français.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** in Berlin, Germany: participates in a discussion on the “Strengthening of Civil Protection in Europe” with Members of the German Parliament, at the “Zukunftsforum Öffentliche Sicherheit”.

Mr Phil **Hogan** participates in the International Launch of the 2018 Global Hunger Index, to mark the World Hunger Day, in Brussels.

Mr Phil **Hogan** participates in the Civil Dialogue Group on International Aspects of Agriculture, in Brussels.

Mr Phil **Hogan** addresses the European Liaison Committee for Agricultural and Agri-Food Trade (CELCAA) EU-Japan event, in Brussels.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** attends the [Connected Transport Summit 2018](#), in Brussels.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** in Gdansk, Poland: delivers a speech at the Everywhere International SME’s Congress.

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives Mr László Palkovics, Minister for Innovation and Technology of Hungary.

Ms Věra **Jourová** delivers a speech at the high-level conference on “[Election Interference in the Digital Age: Building Resilience to Cyber-Enabled Threats](#)”, organised by the European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC), in Brussels.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Brussels: presents the [Education and Training Monitor 2018](#) to experts and stakeholders.

Ms Corina **Crețu** receives Mr László Palkovics, Minister for Innovation and Technology of Hungary.

Ms Corina **Crețu** receives Mr Sebastiano Musumeci, President of the Sicilian Region (Italy).

Ms Corina **Crețu** receives Mr Boris Pistorius, Minister for Internal Affairs and Sport of Lower Saxony (Germany).

Mr Carlos **Moedas** receives Mr Otmar Wiestler President of the Helmholtz Association, in Brussels.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** attends a working lunch with the member the EC High-Level group on own resources chaired by Mr Mario Monti, in Brussels.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** delivers a keynote speech at the event: “Towards Horizon Europe: EU Cross-Borders Collaborative & Applied Research” organised by the European Association of research and technology organisations.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Paris, France: delivers a keynote speech at the Inauguration of TUMO Centre for Creative Technologies and meets with Mr Arayik Harutyunyan, Minister for Science and Education of Armenia.

Mr Julian King delivers the opening remarks at the Plenary Defending Democracy



in the Digital Age, during the High Level Conference “Election Defending Democracy in the Digital Age – Building Resilience to Cyber Enabled Threats to Elections”, in Brussels.

Mr Julian **King** receives Mr Pavlo Klimkin Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

Mr Julian King receives Mr Ron Kalifa, Executive Director of Worldpay.

Mrs Mariya **Gabriel** in Maastricht, Netherlands: delivers the opening address at the [Human Brain Project](#) Summit 2018.

Mrs Mariya **Gabriel** receives Mr Erlends Calabuig, CEO of [Euranet Plus](#); and receives Mr John Phelan, Director General of the [International Confederation of Music Publishers](#).

### **Mercredi 17 octobre 2018**

College meeting

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Bill Gates, Co-Chairman of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Kyriakos Mitsotakis, leader of the Greek political party Nea Demokratia.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** participates in a working dinner of the European Council in Article 50 format.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** delivers a keynote speech at the plenary session of the European Economic and Social Committee, in Brussels.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** delivers a keynote speech at the High-Level Event “Innovation in Development – The Future of EU international cooperation” and meets with Mr Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in the European Parliament, in Brussels.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** delivers the opening keynote speech at the [6th Transatlantic Digital Economy Conference](#).

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** delivers a speech at the “Sustainable battery manufacturing” event, at the European Parliament, in Brussels.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** hosts the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the European Commission and the Breakthrough Energy Coalition, in Brussels.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** delivers a keynote speech at the [AVERE E-Mobility Conference](#) (AEC 2018), in Brussels.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** in Oxford, United Kingdom: participates in the Oxford Union Debate [“The Euro is stronger than it ever has been”](#).

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** attends the Summit of the European People's Party, in Brussels.

Mr Günther H. **Oettinger** receives Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Mr Johannes **Hahn** receives Ms Sahar Nasr, Egyptian Minister for Investment and International Cooperation.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** receives Ms Maggie De Block, Minister for Social Affairs and Public Health of Belgium.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** participates in the Youth Cancer Europe event "The right to be forgotten for cancer survivors", in the European Parliament, Brussels.

Mr Dimitris **Avramopoulos** receives Ms Diane Abbott, UK Shadow Home Secretary.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** reçoit des représentants de la Fondation "[The Foundation for Family Businesses in Germany and Europe](#)".

Mr Christos **Stylianides** receives Ms Foteini Gennimata, President of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK).

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** delivers a key-note speech to the conference "[EU investment in space after 2020](#)".

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives Mr Joseph J. Simons, Chairman of the U.S Federal Trade Commission of the United States.

Ms Věra **Jourová** delivers a speech at the Friends of Transparency International meeting, in Brussels.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** participates in and gives a speech at a stakeholder meeting on DiscoverEU, in Brussels.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Sofia, Bulgaria: participates in and hands out awards at the "Be Active Sports Gala Event".

Mr Carlos **Moedas** attends the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding on the 'BEE Joint Fund' (Breakthrough Energy Europe) with Mr. Bill Gates.

Mr Julian King delivers the keynote speech at the European Banking Federation (EBF) Cyber Security Conference, in Brussels.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Katowice, Poland: meets with the organisers of the VIII European Congress of Small and Medium-size Enterprises; meets with representatives from local public administrations; participates in Citizens' Dialogue on the Digital Europe; and delivers a speech and participates in the opening ceremony of the congress.

**Jeudi 18 octobre 2018**

European Council (Art. 50)

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** participates in the European Council.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** participates in a working lunch on Euro/Economic and Monetary Union matters.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Shinzō Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** participates in the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

Mr Frans **Timmermans** receives Mr Winfried Kretschmann, Minister-President of Baden Württemberg.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** attends the European Council, in Brussels.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** attends the Europe-Asia Meeting (ASEM) Summit and holds several bilateral meetings in its margins, in Brussels.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** receives High-Level representatives of European Cybersecurity Industry Leaders (ECIL) Group.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** receives Mr Wilbur Ross, Secretary for Commerce of the United States.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** and Ms Věra **Jourová** deliver a speech at the opening of the Multimedia exhibition "[Czech and Slovak Century, 100th Anniversary](#)", in Brussels.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** receives Mr Bill Gates, founder of the Microsoft Corporation.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** in London: meets Mr Bill Winters, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank; delivers a keynote speech at the '[Pan-Baltic Capital Market' investors conference](#)'; and meets Mr Philip Hammond, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** delivers the opening keynote speech at the [Artificial Intelligence 2018](#) event, in Brussels.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** delivers a keynote speech at the Asia-Europe Economic Forum (AEEF), in Brussels.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Mika Vehviläinen, CEO of Cargotec Corporation.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives a delegation of civil society organizations to discuss the [EU Plastics Strategy](#).

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives a delegation of the [EU-ASEAN Business Council](#).

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Wilbur Ross, Secretary for Commerce of the United States.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives Mr S. Iswaran, Minister for Communications and Information, and Trade Relations of Singapore.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives representatives of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Business Council.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** in Liège, Belgium: participates in the [Jean Rey Conference](#), at the University of Liège.

Mr Neven **Mimica** receives Mr Bill Gates, co-founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives Mr Pascal Vollenweider, Avaaz Campaign Director.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives Mr Kim Young-Choon, Minister of Oceans and Fisheries of Korea.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** participates in the signing ceremony of the Joint Statement with the Republic of Korea to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, together with Mr Kim Young-Choon, Minister for Oceans and Fisheries, in Brussels.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** receives representatives of Spirits Europe.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Medina, Italy: holds a [Citizens' Dialogue](#).

M. Pierre **Moscovici** à Rome, Italie (jusqu'au 19/10): prononce le discours de clôture sur "La politique économique d'une Europe qui protège les citoyens" au dialogue bilatéral italo-français organisé par l'Institut Aspen Italia.

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Bratislava, Slovakia: addresses the conference on "[Risk Valuation and Risk Management Tools in the Agri-Food Sector](#)".

Ms Violeta **Bulc** delivers a speech at the [Asia-Europe Business Forum 2018](#), in Brussels.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** receives Mr William Todts, Executive Director of Transport & Environment (T&E).

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives Mr Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce of the United States.

Ms Věra **Jourová** delivers a speech at the kick-off of the 2nd Annual Review of the EU-US Privacy Shield, in Brussels.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** and Ms Corina **Crețu** in Sofia, Bulgaria: participate and deliver speeches at the [7th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region](#) (EUSDR).

Ms Corina **Crețu** in Sofia, Bulgaria: delivers a speech at the meeting of Ministers in charge of Tourism from the Danube Region; meets Ms Yordanka

Asenova Fandakova, Mayor of Sofia; and meets Mr Boyko Borissov, Prime Minister of Bulgaria.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Funchal, Portugal: delivers a keynote speech at the 46th Conference of the Periferma Maritime Regions (CMPR) General Assembly.

Mr Julian **King** receives Ms Diane Abbott UK Shadow Home Secretary, in Brussels

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Lyon, France: participates in the meeting of the Supervisory Board of Euronews; participates in a roundtable discussion with stakeholders from the cinema industry on the launch of the prototype of the [online directory of European films](#); and participates in a crossed interview together with Mr Thierry Frémaux, Director General of the Lumière Film Festival, during the opening of the [European Film Forum](#).

### **Vendredi 19 octobre 2018**

#### Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** together with Ms Violeta **Bulc**, participates in the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** meets Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** meets Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Vietnam.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of China, for a working lunch.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** participates in the EU – Republic of Korea Summit, together with Mr Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, and Mr Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** participates in the signature of the Free Trade Agreement with Singapore, together with Mr Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, and Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** participates in the EU-ASEAN Leaders' Meeting.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** participates in the ASEM (Europe-Asia Meeting) Summit; participates in the the EU/Republic of Korea Summit; and participates in the EU-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Leaders' Meeting, in Brussels.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** receives Mr S. Iswaran, Minister for Communications and Information of Singapore.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** receives Ms Christiana Figueres, Vice Chair of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** delivers a keynote speech at the "In Quest for Sustainable



Europe: the Economy of Wellbeing” event, in Brussels.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** attends the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) plenary sessions and working lunch, in Brussels.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr S. Iswaran, Minister for Communication and Information of Singapore.

Mr Johannes **Hahn** receives Mr Shahin Mustafayev, Minister for Economic Development of Azerbaijan.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives Mr Tr  n Tu  n Anh, Minister for Industry and Trade of Vietnam.

Ms Cecilia **Malmstr  m** participates in the [EU-South Korea Summit](#), in Brussels.

Mr Miguel **Arias Ca  ete** in Madrid, Spain: gives a speech at the Conference on Sustainable Mobility at the Spanish Energy Club (Club Espa  ol de la Energ  a); and gives closing remarks at the Congress of Renewable Energies of APPA Renovables.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** in Reykjav  k, Iceland: delivers a keynote speech at the opening session of the 2018 [Arctic Circle Assembly](#); meets Mr Gu  mundur Ingi Gu  brandsson, Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources of Iceland; meets Ms S  gol  ne Royal, French Ambassador in charge of international negotiation for the Arctic and Antarctic regions; and visits the Rafnar shipyard, a Horizon2020-funded project contributing to the design and production of the revolutionary coast guard boat called   K Hull.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Cernobbio, Italy (until 20/10): participates in the 17th Coldiretti International Forum for Food and Agriculture.

Mr Dimitris **Avramopoulos** in Athens, Greece: delivers the keynote speech at the Diplomatic Academy.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** delivers the opening speech at the Conference “Addressing Inequalities: Workshops for better policymaking”, in Brussels.

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Brno, Czech Republic: meets with Mr Miroslav Toman, Minister for Agriculture of the Czech Republic; meets with representatives of the Agriculture Committees and EU Committees of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies; and visits a farm and meets with Czech agriculture stakeholders.

Ms El  bieta **Bie  kowska** in Katowice, Poland: delivers a speech at the SME Conference.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Balatonf  red, Hungary: visits an exhibition and gives a speech at The House of Jewish Excellences.

Ms Corina **Cre  u** in Bucharest, Romania: delivers a speech at the [CESAER Annual Meeting](#), organised by the University Politehnica of Bucharest (UPB).

Mr Carlos **Moedas** participates in the WindPlus InnovFin Energy Demonstration

Projects (EDP) Signing Ceremony (related to the “WindFloat Atlantic” Project), with representatives of WindPlus and the European Investment Bank.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Varna, Bulgaria: delivers an opening and welcome address; and participates in a panel discussion on “Women in Tech in the Western Balkans” at the [Innowave summit 2018](#).

### **Samedi 20 octobre 2018**

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Cernobbio, Italy: participates in the 17th Coldiretti International Forum for Food and Agriculture.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Sofia, Bulgaria: takes part in a demonstration on code skills organised by Bulgarian students within the European code week.

### **Prévisions du mois de octobre:**

29-30/10 Informal meeting of transport and environment ministers

### **Permanence DG COMM le WE du 20 au 21 octobre 2018:**

BAHRKE Johannes: +32 460 75 86 15

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

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## **State aid: Commission approves extension of Danish tonnage tax scheme to new types of vessels**

At the same time, Denmark will amend its existing scheme to ensure that it applies only to genuine maritime shipping activities by limiting revenues from non-core activities to an acceptable level.

Commissioner Margrethe **Vestager** in charge of competition policy, said: *“Denmark’s revised tonnage tax scheme will help the shipping industry remain competitive on the global market. It will preserve jobs and promote high environmental standards in the maritime transport sector. The scheme complies with the Commission’s State aid guidelines and contains new safeguards to ensure equal treatment of European shipping companies and avoid distortions of competition.”*

Under tonnage tax schemes, maritime transport companies pay taxes on the

basis of the ship tonnage (i.e. the size of the shipping fleet) rather than on the basis of their actual taxable profits. Such schemes can be approved by the Commission under EU State aid rules.

In May 2016, Denmark notified to the Commission its plans to extend its existing tonnage tax scheme to cover guard vessels, vessels servicing off-shore installations and vessels for raising, repairing and dismantling windmills as well as pipeline- and cable-laying vessels, ice management vessels and accommodation vessels.

The Commission decided today that those types of vessels are involved in maritime activities that are subject to the same legal requirements and competitive conditions as maritime transport. The Commission therefore approved the extension of the scheme to these vessels under EU State aid rules (the Commission's 2004 [Guidelines on State aid to maritime transport](#)).

The decision also confirms that Denmark will amend certain aspects of its existing tonnage tax scheme to align it with the Commission's current interpretation of the [Guidelines on State aid to maritime transport](#). In this respect, in the past years, the Commission has been requesting Member States to revise their tonnage tax schemes to ensure equal treatment amongst European shipping companies and to keep pace with the evolution of the shipping sector whilst avoiding undue distortions of competition globally. In particular, Denmark will amend its tonnage tax rules as regards:

- **ancillary services** that are closely connected to shipping activities. These services will be subject to tonnage taxation only if they account for less than 50% of a ship's total tonnage-taxed income, and
- **revenues from bare boat charter out activities** (the leasing of ships without crew). The services will be subject to tonnage taxation provided that the beneficiary self-operates at least 50% of the tonnage tax fleet and that the vessel is not leased out for a period longer than three years.

The Commission assessed the amended Danish tonnage tax scheme under its [Guidelines on State aid to maritime transport](#) and concluded that it is in line with EU State aid rules

## Background

To address the risk of flagging out and relocation of shipping companies to low-tax countries outside of the EU, the Commission's 2004 [Guidelines on State aid to maritime transport](#) allow Member States to adopt measures that improve the fiscal climate for shipping companies. In this respect, the aim of the Guidelines is to encourage shipping companies to register their vessels in Europe and thus commit to Europe's high social, environmental and safety standards. The most prominent of such measures is tonnage tax, whereby shipping companies can apply to be taxed based on a notional profit or the tonnage they operate, instead of being taxed under the normal corporate tax system. Only companies that are active in maritime transport (defined as the transport of goods and persons by sea) are eligible for measures under the

[Guidelines on State aid to maritime transport](#). In addition, under the [Guidelines on State aid to maritime transport](#), beneficiaries are required to increase and at least maintain a certain share of their fleet under an EEA flag.

Since 2004, the Commission's decision-making practice under the [Guidelines on State aid to maritime transport](#) has further clarified the eligible transport activities and compatibility conditions to ensure that the main objectives of the [Guidelines on State aid to maritime transport](#) are met. The Commission ensures in particular that there is no spill-over of the favourable tax treatment of shipping companies into other sectors unrelated to maritime transport, that there is no discrimination against other EEA State registries, and that the aid does not exceed the ceiling set out in the [Guidelines on State aid to maritime transport](#).

The Commission's most recent decisions concern the Swedish tonnage tax scheme (Case [SA.43642](#)), a German scheme for the reduction of social contributions for seafarers (Case [SA.45258](#)), the Lithuanian tonnage tax scheme (Case [SA.45764](#)), the Belgian tonnage tax scheme ([SA.41330](#)), the Maltese ([SA.33829](#)) and Portuguese ([SA.48929](#)) tonnage tax schemes and a Danish scheme for the reduction of income tax for seafarers ([SA.46852](#)).

The non-confidential version of the decision will be published under the case number SA.45300 in the [State aid register](#) on the Commission's [competition website](#) once any confidentiality issues have been resolved. The [State Aid Weekly e-News](#) lists new publications of state aid decisions on the internet and in the EU Official Journal.