

One Planet Summit 2018: Europe sustains its leadership on climate action

Europe is committed to leading the fight against climate change. To underline its leadership, the Commission presented a comprehensive set of 10 transformative initiatives, the [Action Plan for the Planet](#), at the inaugural One Planet Summit in Paris last December. In New York today, Vice-Presidents Maroš Šefčovič and Valdis Dombrovskis and Commissioner Neven Mimica will update Heads of State and Government, businesses leaders and civil society on the main achievements to date under these initiatives in support of climate action.

Vice-President Šefčovič will highlight the series of decisive, tailor-made steps taken in support of Europe's coal and carbon-intensive regions as well as the work carried out with cities to accelerate the deployment of disruptive clean technologies. Vice-President Dombrovskis will stress the importance of making sustainable finance the new normal, presenting the [proposals](#) the Commission put on the table in May to enable the EU financial sector to lead the way to a greener and cleaner economy. Meanwhile Commissioner Mimica will announce €10 million for the Pacific region under a joint initiative to build an international coalition to help the region adapt to the challenges climate change brings and to increase resilience.

Vice-President responsible for the Energy Union, Maroš Šefčovič, said: *"To match the urgency of climate action, we have stepped up our game through concrete initiatives, with public-private partnerships at their centre. We do not have the luxury of decades to offer a healthy, modern future to people in coal and carbon-intensive regions in transition, to deploy new clean technologies, and to make our mobility, buildings or waste management sustainable. Because it is what we do today – not tomorrow – that defines whether climate action outpaces climate change and whether our planet is great again."*

Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, Financial Stability and Financial Services Valdis Dombrovskis said: *"To meet our Paris targets, Europe needs around €180 billion in extra yearly investment over the next decade. We want a quarter of the EU budget to contribute to climate action as of 2021. Yet, public money will not be enough. This is why the EU has proposed hard law to incentivise private capital to flow to green projects. We hope that Europe's leadership will inspire others to walk next to us. We are at two minutes to midnight. It is our last chance to join forces."*

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, said: *"The Pacific region is home to more than 12 million people, and although their contribution to climate change is minimal, they suffer the consequences greatly. The Pacific also hosts an important part of the world's biodiversity, which is increasingly endangered. With the EU's €10 million*

contribution to the joint initiative, we are renewing our commitment to help protect the region from climate change and its impacts on biodiversity, livelihoods and the environment.”

Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Miguel Arias **Cañete** said: *“Dealing with climate change is a matter of collective political responsibility, multilateral engagement, and ambition. The EU sees climate action as an opportunity for industrial and societal transformation. It is a chance for economies to be more innovative, secure and ultimately more competitive. We are delivering on ambition domestically – the EU framework for cutting emissions by at least 40% by 2030 is complete. The European Commission’s forthcoming proposal on a long-term vision will also ensure we stay on course. We know we cannot do it alone, so we try to inspire others on their path in dealing with climate change.”*

Putting sustainable finance at the top of the agenda

To meet our Paris targets, the EU needs around €180 billion in extra investment every year until 2030 in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transport. In March, the Commission presented its [Sustainable Finance Action Plan](#) consisting of ten ambitious legislative and non-legislative measures to mobilise finance for sustainable investments and sustainable growth. The first legal proposals were put on table in May, including a proposal to agree on an EU-wide classification system – or ‘taxonomy’ – which will lead to common definitions for what is green and what is not. This would help investors easily recognize and fund climate-friendly activities. The taxonomy will also enable the development of EU labels for green financial products, green bonds and funds. More and more people want their savings to be invested in environment-friendly projects, but face difficulties in finding an easy and trustworthy offer. The EU’s financial sector – and capital markets in particular – have the potential to become global leaders in this ambitious agenda, inspiring others to follow suit. The low carbon transition is not only inevitable, it can also create new opportunities: already in 2014, private investments in EU circular economy sectors were estimated at €120 billion, which is equivalent to 0.8% GDP, an increase of 58% since 2008.

Increasing resilience in the Pacific region

As climate change and protection of biodiversity call for stronger joined-up actions, the EU, France, Australia and New Zealand are launching a joint initiative to build an international collation to help the Pacific region adapt to these challenges and to increase resilience. The EU is contributing €10 million to this joint initiative, which will finance projects in areas such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, ocean governance (including sustainable fisheries and aquaculture) and the environment (including waste management, biodiversity and eco-tourism).

Progress on all ten initiatives of the Action Plan for the Planet

Work is underway on each of the ten initiatives announced last year. For example:

Under the “[Clean, Connected and Competitive Mobility](#)” initiative the Commission in May presented the final set of actions to modernise Europe’s transport sector. The initiatives include an integrated policy for the future of road safety with measures for vehicles and infrastructure safety; the first ever CO₂ standards for heavy-duty vehicles; a strategic Action Plan for the development and manufacturing of batteries in Europe and a forward-looking strategy on connected and automated mobility. These initiatives are supported by a call for proposals under the Connecting Europe Facility with [€450 million available](#) to support projects in the Member States contributing to road safety, digitisation and multimodality.

The [Structural Support Action for Coal and Carbon Intensive Regions](#) offers tailor-made support for the regions set to modernise their economic model, while mitigating social impacts of the low-carbon transition. The Commission has set up a platform for coal regions in transition to facilitate the development and implementation of projects, which can kick-start viable economic transformation of the respective regions, with seven EU member states participating (Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Poland, Spain, Romania and Slovakia).

Under its objective of [Investing in Clean Industrial Technologies](#), the EU intends to exploit its first mover advantage in clean energy innovation, increasing the allocation under Horizon 2020 from around €1 billion in 2015 to €2 billion in 2020. Under EU leadership of the international Mission Innovation initiative, 23 major economies have made significant progress towards the goal of doubling their public clean energy research and innovation over five years. Moreover, at least 40% of projects financed by the European Investment Bank (EIB) under the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) should now contribute to the EU’s climate and energy commitments.

The Commission will continue to work at full pace to ensure each of the initiatives in the Action Plan for the Planet are implemented.

For more information

[Factsheet on Sustainable Finance](#)

Press release 24 May 2018: [Sustainable finance: Making the financial sector a powerful actor in fighting climate change](#)

Press release 12 December 2017: [Commission unveils Action Plan for the Planet](#)

[European Union and UN Food and](#)

Agriculture Organization scale up efforts to boost resilience to food crises

The European Commission and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have strengthened their partnership to boost the resilience of millions of people struggling with severe and often prolonged or recurrent food crises around the world. The agreement for €70 million contribution, signed by Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven **Mimica**, and the Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, José Graziano da Silva, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York today, contributes to the [Global Network against Food Crises](#) to promote sustainable solutions to food crises.

European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, said: “Last year, the Global Network against Food Crises allowed us to take concrete and concerted steps to mitigate food crises and avert famine in northern Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen. And we need to scale this up. This additional contribution of €70 million to the FAO will further bolster our partnership and speed up the network’s efforts to tackle hunger globally by strengthening links between humanitarian, development and peace actors, as recommended by UN Security Council Resolution 2417”.

The Resolution condemning the starving of civilians as a method of warfare signals a shared ambition to prevent and eradicate conflict-induced hunger.

José Graziano da Silva of the FAO commented: “The EU’s contribution will help improve the way we detect, prevent and respond to food crises. It will ultimately make hunger-stricken rural communities stronger in the face of emerging food crises. Investing in resilience is key to fighting hunger today and in the future. In view of the magnitude and persistence of food crises, we need to invest more in resilience interventions and create stronger alliances with all parties – humanitarian, development and peace actors – working together to stem hunger.”

The new funding will enable the European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and their partners to roll out resilience interventions wherever they are needed; to produce food security and resilience analyses to better target actions against hunger; and to strengthen coordination, policy, prevention and response mechanisms at country and global level to better tackle deepening food crises. Moreover, the agreement will complement interventions in 12 countries hit by food crises to address the root causes of hunger.

Background

The EU contribution comes at a time when conflict and extreme climatic events

are on the rise, leaving millions of people hungry and forcing a record number of people – 68 million, – to leave their land and homes. Over 120 million people in 51 countries were affected by acute food insecurity in 2017 – that's 11 million more people than the year before. Acute food insecurity means hunger so severe that it poses an immediate threat to lives or livelihoods.

The European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and UN World Food Programme launched the Global Network against Food Crises at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. Having begun with three founding partners two years ago, the Network is expanding and aims to become the engine behind promoting closer coordination between humanitarian and development agencies and peace actors.

This agreement builds on previous successful EU-FAO partnerships and interventions, and is a testimony to the organisations' continued efforts to build resilience to food crises for all – at family, community and country level.

More information

[FAO and the EU](#)

[UN resolution 2417](#)

[Global Report on Food Crises 2018](#)

[FAO's work to build resilience](#)

[FAO's emergency work – responding to crises](#)

France, Germany, Belgium and Spain call for the creation of a European Judicial Counter-Terrorism Register

The Hague, 21 June 2018


On 20 and 21 June, the annual seminar on counter-terrorism, organised by Eurojust, took place. This year, Mr François Molins, District Chief Prosecutor of the Court of Paris, Mr Frédéric Van Leeuw, Federal Prosecutor of Belgium, and Ms Joëlle Milquet, Special Advisor to the President of the European Commission on the support to victims of terrorist attacks, participated in the discussions.

The conference focussed on two themes: the judicial response to persons returning to Europe from the combat zones in Iraq and Syria, and the support


to victims of terrorist attacks.

A [joint declaration by the Ministers of Justice of France, Germany, Belgium and Spain](#) ([FR](#) | [DE](#) | [ES](#)) was distributed in the margins of the conference. It called for the reinforcement of the sharing of information with Eurojust on current investigations and convictions for terrorist offences.

Given the persistent terrorist threat that concerns the whole of the European territory, strong cooperation between judicial authorities within the European Union is actually indispensable. The Ministers call for the creation of a European Judicial Counter-Terrorism Register that will make it possible to proactively establish possible links between cases and to identify coordination needs for the investigations. The legal basis for working together is already in place (Council Decision 2005/671/JHA), which should be systematically applied in all Member States.


 Mr François Molins said: *The quality of judicial cooperation in criminal matters is a big challenge. We cannot work in silos in our countries anymore. We need an overall approach. To strengthen and bolster judicial cooperation, we need to go through Eurojust, the only European agency able to do that. [...] Sharing information is also a major challenge in cooperation. Centralisation of information allows us to double-check it proactively and coordinate actions upstream. The more we share, the better we are able to intervene and distribute the workload between Member States in a smarter way.*

Intensive coordination of the investigations after the Paris terrorist attacks

 Between 2014 and 2017, there was a sixfold increase (from 14 to 87) in terrorist cases registered at Eurojust, including following the terrorist attacks on the Thalys train, Brussels, Nice, Berlin, Stockholm and Barcelona. Those cases are not only larger in number but also growingly complex and, in contrast to terrorism investigations before 2014, involve many different States. For example, in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in Paris and Saint-Denis on 13 November 2015, Eurojust opened a case that, in addition to France, involved another 14 Member States and the USA. Numerous coordination meetings have since been held in Austria, Paris and The Hague. The collaboration uncovered possible links between the investigations into the attacks in Paris and other terrorism cases. As a result, two suspects arrested in Austria and one detained in Germany were successfully surrendered to the French authorities (click on image to enlarge).

A solid response to returning foreign terrorist fighters


Since 2013, Eurojust supports prosecutors to build solid cases against foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs). During the two-day meeting, the discussions centred on the various challenges that prosecutors face in this regard, such as digital evidence, the use of the specific crime of participation in the activities of a terrorist group, the prosecution of non-combatant women, the judicial response to returning minors, and obtaining battlefield information in a way that makes it admissible as evidence in court. In most Member States, returning FTFs who are found guilty face

imprisonment. 

Mr Frédéric Van Leeuw, Federal Prosecutor, Belgium, said: *The majority of the 2013 and 2014 returnees are young people. What position should we adopt, after they have gone a path not compatible with the values of our society, as they have collaborated actively with terrorist groups? [...] We have to respect the 1989 Children's Convention, and not separate children from their mothers. Eurojust can unite different authorities and find common procedures in accordance with the fundamental values of our societies.*

Giving priority to the rights of victims of terrorist attacks

Assistance and support to victims of terrorism are key elements of the European Union's counter-terrorism efforts. Eurojust has been assisting in a number of investigations into recent terrorist attacks in which support to victims was a major aspect of the international judicial cooperation efforts.

 Ms Joëlle Milquet, Special Advisor to the President of the European Commission on the support to victims of terrorist attacks, said: *We need an integrated approach at EU level and we have to set minimum standards, promote best practice, take pragmatic measures and adapt the existing directives. A common, precise definition of victims or of compensation to victims is required and one single focal point at national level. We can have a more structured coordination by involving other stakeholders, such as Eurojust and Europol.*

Background

Eurojust's mission is to unite the community of thousands of practitioners who, every day, everywhere in Europe, work hard to fight all forms of criminality, and combine their efforts to make Europe a more secure and just place. Just in the past year, 4 400 national prosecutors and senior law enforcement officials came from all Member States, from 30 different legal systems, seeking solutions to very concrete problems, such as how to coordinate different prosecutions against the same terrorist suspects, to avoid gaps, overlapping or conflict of jurisdictions, or to create a joint investigation team.

Eurojust's meetings on counter-terrorism were launched in June 2001. Unlike coordination meetings organised in the framework of ongoing investigations supported by Eurojust, Eurojust's meetings on counter-terrorism bring together judicial and law enforcement authorities dealing with terrorism matters and concentrate on a particular terrorist phenomenon or a specific aspect of the criminal justice response to terrorism.

More information

Infographics on the coordination through Eurojust of counter terrorism cases:

Photos © Eurojust

European Week of Sport, 23-30 September

The news:

This year the fourth edition of the European Week of Sport will take place from 23-30 September 2018. This EU initiative is a Europe-wide campaign (#BeActive) to inspire people to practise sport and, more broadly, to be active in their everyday lives.

Starting with the official opening in Vienna on 22 September, people will be invited to join sport events and activities organised all over Europe. For the first time, countries from the Western Balkans will also be part of the European Week. Activities will range from small local sport gatherings to national tournaments and pan-European events. Different days will be dedicated to practising sport in a specific setting, such as at school or at the workplace, outdoors and in sport clubs or fitness centres. A network of partners supported by a team of well-known national and European sport ambassadors will promote the events around Europe.

The background:

The European Week of Sport is a response to encourage all Europeans to get up and #BeActive. It is a truly European movement that began in 2015 and has inspired millions of people in 32 countries to #BeActive in their everyday lives.

There is a real need to inspire Europeans to exercise more and make everyone aware of the importance of physical activity. Of all Europeans 59% never or seldom practice or play sport, while 37% sit more than 5.5 hours a day.

The event:

In the presence of Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, this year's opening ceremony will be held alongside Austria's Day of Sport in Vienna's Prater Park on 22 September 2018.

The sources:

[The European Week of Sports 2018 website](#)

[What is the EU doing for sport?](#)

[Tartu Call for a Healthy Lifestyle](#)

[Eurobarometer on sport and physical activity](#)

Indicative programme – Competitiveness Council, 27 and 28 September 2018

Place:

Europa building, Brussels

Chairs:

Margarete Schramböck, Federal Minister for Digital and Economic Affairs of Austria

Heinz Faßmann, Federal Minister for Education, Science and Research of Austria

All times are approximate and subject to change

THURSDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

+/- 09.00

Arrivals

+/- 09.30

Doorstep by Minister Schramböck

Internal Market and Industry

+/- 10.00

Roundtable

Adoption of the agenda

+/- 10.15

Competitiveness check-up

+/- 11.00

Artificial intelligence and robotics ([public session](#))

Any other business ([public session](#))

– Outcome of the informal competitiveness ministers meeting of 15-16 July 2018

+/- 13.00

Any other business (not in public session)

- Implementation of the DSM e-commerce initiatives
- Communication: a retail sector fit for the 21st century
- Outcome of a conference on EU single market
- Outcome of the Single Market Forum

Adoption of legislative A items ([public session](#))

Adoption of non-legislative A items

+/- 13.30

MFF in the light of competitiveness (informal lunch debate)

+/- 15.15

Press conference ([live streaming](#) from JL building press room)

FRIDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2018

+/- 08.30

Arrivals

+/- 08.45

Doorstep by Minister Faßmann

Research

+/- 10.00

Roundtable

+/- 10.00

Horizon Europe Package: ([public session](#))

– Framework programme

– Specific programme

+/- 13.00

Horizon Europe Package (lunch debate)

+/- 15.00

Strategic planning process ([public session](#))

+/- 16.30

Press conference ([live streaming](#) from JL building press room)

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