

VAT: EU Member States still losing almost €150 billion in revenues according to new figures

The so-called 'VAT Gap' shows the difference between the expected VAT revenue and the amount actually collected. While Member States' have carried out a lot of work to improve VAT collection, today's figures show that reform of the current EU VAT system combined with better cooperation at EU level are needed so that Member States can make full use of VAT revenues in their budgets.

Pierre **Moscovici**, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs said: *"Member States have been improving VAT collection throughout the EU. This must be recognised and commended. But a loss of €150 billion per year for national budgets remains unacceptable, especially when €50 billion of this is lining the pockets of criminals, fraudsters and probably even terrorists. A substantial improvement will only come with the adoption of the VAT reform we proposed a year ago. I urge Member States to move forward on the definitive VAT system before the European Parliament elections in 2019."*

In nominal terms, the VAT Gap decreased by €10.5 billion to €147.1 billion in 2016, a drop to 12.3% of total VAT revenues compared to 13.2% the year before. The individual performance of the Member States still varies significantly. The VAT Gap decreased in 22 Member States with Bulgaria, Latvia, Cyprus, and the Netherlands displaying strong performances, with a decrease in each case of more than 5 percentage points in VAT losses. However, the VAT Gap did increase in six Member States: Romania, Finland, the UK, Ireland, Estonia, and France.

While much progress has been achieved to improve VAT collection and administration at the EU level, Member States should now move forward and agree as soon as possible on the much broader reform to cut down on VAT fraud in the EU's system, [as proposed last year by the Commission](#). The reboot would improve and modernise the system for governments and businesses alike, making the system more robust and simpler to use for companies.

Background

The VAT Gap study is funded by the EU budget and its findings are relevant for both the Union and Member States as VAT makes an important contribution to the Union and national budgets. The study applies a "top-down" methodology using national accounts data to produce estimations of the VAT gaps.

For the first time, the 2018 report includes a broader analysis of the effect of some external factors such as the productive structure of the economy and unemployment, as well as those under the direct control of the tax administration such as the size of the tax administration and IT

expenditures. This aspect is particularly important since investment in IT usually leads to a VAT gap reduction, as set out in [recommendations previously made by the Commission to the Member States](#).

Useful links

For more information, see our [FAQ](#).

The full report and a factsheet is available [here](#) .

VIDEO: [Commissioner Moscovici on the fight against VAT fraud](#)

CALENDRIER du 24 septembre au 30 septembre 2018

(Susceptible de modifications en cours de semaine)

Déplacements et visites

Lundi 24 septembre 2018

23-25/09 [Informal meeting of agriculture ministers](#)

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** addresses the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit organised in the margins of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in New York, United States.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** meets Mr Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya, in New York, United States.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** meets Mr Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda and Chairperson of the African Union, in New York, United States.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** attends a reception hosted by Mr Donald Trump, President of the United States, in New York, United States.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** in New-York, United States (until 27/9): meets Ms Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; delivers a speech at the Columbia University World Leaders' Forum on the topic "Can the EU be true to its values?"; and delivers a speech at the UN Secretary General's high-level Meeting on Financing the 2030 Agenda.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** at the United Nations General Assembly, New York City, USA: participates in the Inaugural Meeting and delivers a speech in the High-Level Event Launching the Young People's Agenda ("Generation Unlimited")

organised by UNICEF; and participates in the Ministerial Meeting on Libya; and chairs the Informal EU Foreign Ministers Meeting; and chairs the Ministerial Meeting of the E3/EU+2 and Iran on the implementation of the JCPOA.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** in Bratislava, Slovakia: meets representatives of E.ON.; and participates in a [Citizens' dialogue](#).

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Ms Nadia Calviño, Minister for Economy and Enterprise of Spain.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives the representatives of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China.

Mr Johannes **Hahn** at the United Nations General Assembly, New York City, USA: participates in the Informal EU Foreign Ministers Meeting.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** in New York, the United States (until 25/09): participates in the [Ministerial Meeting of the Alliance for Torture-Free Trade](#).

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives Mr Mats Harborn, President of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** in New York, the United States: participate in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and side events.

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Schloss Hof, Austria (until 25/09): attends the informal meeting of agriculture ministers.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** in Seattle, the United States: visits Boeing; and visits Amazon Prime Air.

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives Mr Mats Harborn, President of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** receives representatives of the European Theatre Convention.

Ms Corina **Crețu** delivers a speech at the Gala dinner of EU Capitals' Mayors organised in the framework of the 7th Direct Dialogue between EU Capitals' Mayors and the European Commission, in Brussels.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** receives Mr Michael Kretschmer, Prime Minister of the Free State of Saxony (Germany).

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Sofia, Bulgaria: delivers a speech at the official opening of the innovative online platform supporting women-survivors of domestic violence (EMPROVE); and meets beekeepers' organizations on the opportunities which digital technologies provide for the development of the beekeeping sector in Europe.

Mardi 25 septembre 2018

Informal meeting of agriculture ministers

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** together with Mr Frans **Timmermans** and High Representative / Vice-President Federica Mogherini, attends the opening of the General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly, in New York, United States.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** meets Mr Mamuka Bakhtadze, Prime Minister of Georgia, in New York, United States.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** in New-York, United States: meets David Milliband, President and CEO of International Rescue Committee (IRC); and hosts with UN Environment Programme the event "Fighting Plastic Pollution: A Global Race to the Top".

Ms Federica **Mogherini** at the United Nations General Assembly, New York City, in the United States: participates in the Informal Meeting with Common & Future EU Member States of the United Nations Security Council; chairs the Global Tech Panel meeting; and participates in the Transatlantic Foreign Ministers Dinner and the G7 Foreign Ministers Working Dinner.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** in New York, the United States (until 26/09): participates in the [Sustainable Development Impact Summit](#) at the World Economic Forum; and delivers a speech during the panel 'Mobilizing Capital Markets towards Ecological Resilience'.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Ms Anni Sinnemäki, Deputy Mayor for Urban Environment of Helsinki.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** delivers a keynote speech on public investment and EU agenda for cities at the event of Mayors of the Capital Cities of the EU, in Brussels.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** delivers a keynote speech at the London Stock Exchange "1000 companies to Inspire Europe 2018" event, in Brussels.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** meets Ms Emma Navarro, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), in Brussels.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** attends a signature ceremony of a European Fund for Strategic Investments project, in Brussels.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Ms Manuela Carmena, Mayor of Madrid.

Mr Johannes **Hahn** at the United Nations General Assembly, New York City, the United States: participates in the Western Balkans Foreign Ministers meeting; meets with Mr Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of Armenia; meets with Mr Mohamed Taha Siala, Foreign Minister of Libya; and meets with Mr Pierre Krähenbühl, Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** in New York, in the United States: meets Mr Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative and Mr Hiroshige Sekō,

Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** in Malta (until 26/09): delivers a welcome address at the stakeholders discussions in support of the “Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea”; and holds dialogues on championing fisheries best practices for the implementation of the “Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea”.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** in Hamburg, Germany: gives an opening speech at the Global Wind Summit.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in New York, the United States (until 28/09): participates in the Annual Champions 12.3 high-profile event on food waste; gives a keynote speech at the World Heart Federation launch of White Paper for Circulatory Health, at the Harvard Club.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** attends the International Lunch Debate at the Nationale Bank, in Brussels.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** à New York, les Etats-Unis: rencontre M. Steven Mnuchin, secrétaire du Trésor des États-Unis; participe à un dialogue avec la European American Chamber of Commerce (EACC) sur les relations économiques transatlantiques; et à un dialogue à l’université de Columbia sur les aspects économiques et politiques en Europe.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** in New York, the United States: participate in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and side events.

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Schloss Hof, Austria: attends the informal meeting of agriculture ministers.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** in San Francisco, the United States: visits Facebook; has a working lunch with the Slovenian Start-up Community in Silicon Valley; and attends an event organised by the University of California Transportation Center (UCTC).

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** delivers the keynote speech at the SME Envoy meeting, in Brussels.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** in Września, Poland: visits a Volkswagen plant.

Ms Věra **Jourová** in Vienna, Austria: meets Mr Josef Moser, Federal Minister of Constitutional Affairs, Reforms, Deregulation and Justice; meets Mr Michael O’Flaherty, Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights; delivers a speech at the [Fundamental Rights Forum](#); meets Ms Juliane Bogner-Strauß, Federal Minister within the Federal Chancellery for Women, Families and Youth; and delivers a speech at the Consumers Dialogue and participates in a [Citizens’ Dialogue](#) in the margins of the Fundamental Rights Forum.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** delivers a keynote speech at the ‘Cultural Heritage for the Future: the Role of Media Innovation’ conference organised by the European Broadcasting Union, in Brussels.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** delivers a speech at an event on the “Protectors of our heritage” project at the European Parliament, in Brussels.

Ms Corina **Crețu** participates in and delivers a speech at the 7th Direct Dialogue between EU Capitals’ Mayors and the European Commission, in Brussels.

Ms Corina **Crețu** participates in and delivers a speech at the meeting with the representatives of the regional offices, in Brussels.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** delivers a speech at the Women in Science conference, at the European Parliament in Brussels.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** receives the Chancellor, Dean and Vice-Dean from the University of Siegen to present the project “Thinking Medicine New”.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** receives representatives of ‘Portugal XXI’ think-tank.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** receives Mr Antoine Petit, President of The National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS).

Mr Carlos **Moedas** receives Mr François Bonneau, President of Studium à Orléans, Ms Anne Besnier, Vice-President and other representatives of Studium à Orléans.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Vienna, Austria, participates in [a Citizens’ dialogue](#); meets Ms Elena Kirtcheva, Secretary General of the Vienna Economic Forum, and Mr Heinz Messinger, Managing Director of AME International GmbH (advanced health technologies Austria) and Member of the Board of the Vienna Economic Forum, to discuss a European school for Digitalisation initiative; meets Mr Norbert Hofer, Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology of Austria; and delivers a keynote speech at the [Chief Information Officers’ \(CIO\) meeting](#).

Mercredi 26 septembre 2018

College meeting

Mr Frans **Timmermans** in New-York, United States: delivers a speech at the EU Reception.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** at the United Nations General Assembly, New York City, in the United States: chairs High-Level Meeting on the Syria Crisis; participates in the High-Level Meeting on Mali and the Sahel; participates in the reception organised by the European Union; and hosts a Western Balkans Head of States and Governments Dinner;

Mr Andrus **Ansip** receives Mrs Ulrike Rabmer-Koller, President of European Association of Craft, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, UEAPME.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** and Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** in New York, the United States:

participate in the [Bloomberg Global Business Forum](#); participate in the [One Planet Summit](#) with Ms Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** delivers opening remarks at the [EU Circular Business Conference 2018](#) on Sustainable Products in a Circular Economy, in Brussels.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Ștefan-Radu Oprea, Minister for Business Environment, Trade and Entrepreneurship of Romania.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Teemu Laajasalo, Bishop of Helsinki and Mr Juha Rintamäki, Director of the Helsinki Parish Consortium.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives a group of CEOs of Finnish pension funds.

Mr Johannes **Hahn** at the United Nations General Assembly, New York City, USA: participates in a Western Balkans Head of States and Governments meeting.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** in Montreal, Canada (until 27/09): meets Mr James Gordon Carr, Minister for International Trade Diversification of Canada; participates in a Plenary Meeting of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) Joint Committee; and visits companies benefitting from the CETA.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** gives an opening speech at the event held by Ecofys to present the report "Gas for Climate", in Brussels.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** receives Mr Isaac Pola, the Consejero Principado de Asturias.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** gives a keynote speech at the event "Energy efficiency & healthy buildings" in European Parliament, Brussels.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** in Malta: meets Mr Marco Lambertini, Director General of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF); delivers an opening statement at the high-level event on "Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea"; attends the award ceremony: Best practices for small-scale fisheries; the launch of the "Friends of Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF)" Platform; and the Signing Ceremony of the Ministerial Declaration.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in New York, United States (until 28/09): speaks on behalf of the EU at the United Nations General Assembly High Level meeting on tuberculosis.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** receives Mr Etienne Davignon, President of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Europe.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** in Zabreb, Croatia (until 27/9): visits the Kindergaten "Nemo", an EU-funded project; and meets representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Pension System and of the Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy.

Mr Pierre **Moscovici** à New-York, Etats-Unis: participe au [Bloomberg Global Business Forum 2018](#).

Mr Christos **Stylianides** in New York, the United States: participate in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and side events.

Mr Phil **Hogan** receives Mr Aziz Akhannouch, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests of Morocco.

Mr Phil **Hogan** receives representatives of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** in Los Angeles (until 28/09), the United States: visits Mojave Air and Space Port.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** receives Mr Dănuț Andrușcă, Minister for Economy of Romania.

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives Mr Victor Negrescu, Minister Delegate for European Affairs of Romania.

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives Ms Andrea Jelinek, Chair of European Data Protection Board.

Ms Věra **Jourová** delivers a speech at the [Amazon Academy on The 21st Century Consumer](#), in Brussels.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** participates in and gives an opening speech at the [‘European Researchers’ Night: where fun meets science!’](#), organised by the European Parliament and the European Commission, in Brussels.

Ms Corina **Crețu** in Andorra: meets local mayors and other stakeholders to discuss the possibilities that EU cohesion policy offers.

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** in New York, United States: participates in the 2018 Bloomberg Global Business Forum; meets Mr Michael Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg LP & Bloomberg Philanthropies; Mr Nandan Nilekani, non – executive Chairman of Infosys; and Mr Vasant Dhar, Professor at Leonard N. Stern School of Business.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Katowice, Poland: delivers a speech at the European Technology Forum.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** receives Mr Victor Negrescu, minister-delegate for European Affairs of Romania.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** receives Mr Alexander Denev, Executive Director, Head of Quantitative Research and Advanced Analytics at IHS Markit and Lecturer at University of Oxford.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** receives Mr Paul-Bernhard Kallen, CEO of Hubert Burda Media Holding.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** receives representatives of the European Wireless Infrastructure Association.

Mrs Mariya **Gabriel** delivers a keynote speech at the public hearing [‘Role of Independent public service media for democracy in Europe’](#) in the European Parliament; and a keynote speech “Women in (fin)tech” at the [Digital Finance Europe event](#), in Brussels.

Jeudi 27 septembre 2018

United Nations General Assembly, New York, the United States

27-28/09 [Competitiveness Council](#)

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** meets Mr Alexander Schweitzer, President of the parliamentary group of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) in the regional Parliament of Rhineland-Palatinate.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Joseph Daul, President of the European People’s Party (EPP).

Mr Frans **Timmermans** in New-York, in the United States: attends the General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** at the United Nations General Assembly, New York City, USA: co-chairs and delivers a speech at the Spotlight Initiative Launching Event of the Latin America Programme; delivers a speech at the Good Human Rights Stories Event organised by the EU; delivers a speech at the 9th Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT); participates in the High Level Meeting on Somalia; participates in the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Ministerial Meeting; delivers a speech at the Ad-Hoc Liaison Committee Ministerial Meeting on Palestine; participates in the Ministerial Meeting on the Central African Republic; holds several bilateral meetings.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** in New York, the United States: participates in the Socialist International (SI) Presidium meeting.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** in Sopot, Poland: attends the [European Forum for New Ideas](#); delivers keynote speeches on Global Mega Trends and Their Impact on Business, Cultures and Society, as well as on the Circular Economy; attends a panel discussion on the Future of Europe; attends a working lunch with Polish business representatives; and participates in a [Citizens’ Dialogue](#) on the Future of Europe.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** in Montreal, Canada: participates at a [Montreal Council on Foreign Relations \(CORIM\) conference](#); delivers a speech at the [Jean Monnet Centre, University of Montreal](#); and visits companies benefitting from CETA.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** gives a keynote speech at the celebration event of the XBID platform for intra-day trading, in Brussels.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** receives representatives of environmental NGOs (WWF, Ecolise, Greenpeace EU unit, FERN, Act Alliance Europe, CAN), in Brussels.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** in Cetara, Italy (until 28/09): addresses “The Future of Plastics” conference; and delivers a speech on “The EU Plastics Strategy in a Circular Economy”.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in New York, the United States: participates in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and side events.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** in Zabreb, Croatia: meets Mr Marko Pavić, Minister for Labour and Pension System of Croatia and Ms Nada Murganić, Minister for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy of Croatia; participates in the High-level Conference on Employment, at the Opening “Challenges and impact of digitalization on Croatian labour force and implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights through the European Social Fund”; and meets Mr President Andrej Plenković, and Prime Minister Mr Marko Pavić.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** at the United Nations General Assembly week in New York City, USA: speaks at the “Call to Action on Gender-Based Violence in emergency situations” event; speaks at the “high-level event on the Issue of Rohingya Minority of Myanmar” event; and meets Ms Henrietta Fore, Executive Director of the UN International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Sardinia, Italy: delivers a speech at the [European Forest Institute 2018 Annual Conference](#).

Ms Violeta **Bulc** in Los Angeles, the United States: meets Phil Washington, CEO of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority; meets Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles; and visits Space X.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** delivers the closing remarks at the IV Energy for Europe Conference, in Brussels.

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives Ms Ulrike Rabmer-Koller, President of the European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (UAPME).

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Budapest, Hungary: participates in and gives an opening speech at the [‘EuroSkills Conference’](#) organised by the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Belgrade, Serbia: participates in the High Level Round Table on Healthy Lifestyle Beyond Borders organised by the European Commission in the framework of the [European Week of Sport](#) and attends the Official Reception; participates in a small football tournament in the framework of the European Week of Sport.

Ms Corina **Crețu** in Bari, Italy (until 28/09): meets Mr Michele Emiliano, president of the Puglia Region.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Lisbon, Portugal: delivers a speech at the 4th Portuguese Tourism Summit.

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

Mr Carlos **Moedas** receives Ms Ingrid van Engelshoven, Minister for Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands, in Brussels.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** co-chairs, together with Ms Margarete Schramböck, Austrian Federal Minister for Digital and Economic Affairs, a working breakfast on Women in Digital with Ministers from the Competitiveness Council; delivers opening speech at the 'Fact Checking in the EU' Conference for fact checking organisations in view of the 2019 European Elections, at the European Parliament, in Brussels.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** participates in a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament on Cyber Security, Election Package and Disinformation Online, in Brussels.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** participates in the first meeting of the [Expert Group for the Observatory on the Online Platform Economy](#), in Brussels.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** receives Ms Lilyana Pavlova, Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Mr Johannes **Hahn** at the United Nations General Assembly, New York City, USA: participates in the Ad-Hoc Liaison Committee Ministerial Meeting on Palestine; participates in the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Ministerial Meeting; meets with Mr George Soros, Founder and Chairman of the Open Society Foundation; meets with Mr Tzachi Hanegbi, Minister for Regional Cooperation of Israel; meets with Mr Ayman Safadi, Foreign Minister of Jordan; meets with Mr Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States; meets with Mr Pavel Filip, Prime Minister of Moldova; meets with Ms Mary Kamel Kwar, Minister for International Cooperation of Jordan.

Vendredi 28 septembre 2018

[Competitiveness Council](#)

President Jean-Claude **Junker** receives Ms Lilyana Pavlova, Minister in charge of the Bulgarian Presidency of the European Council

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** in Sopot, Poland: participates in and delivers the introductory speech at the panel "EU security and energy policy: achievements, risks, challenges" at the European Forum for New Ideas.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** in Riga, Latvia: participates in the panel discussion on "Mid-term economic outlook for the European Union" at the [Riga Conference 2018](#).

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** in Helsinki, Finland: meets Mr Antti Rinne, Leader of the Social Democratic Party of Finland (SDP).

Mr Karmenu **Vella** in Cetara, Campania Region, Italy: delivers a keynote speech

on “Blue economy potential in the Mediterranean”, at the Italian Parliamentary Assembly of the Fisheries Sector.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in New Haven, the United States: visits the Yale University.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** in San José, Costa Rica: attends the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of the Central American Aerial Navigation Services Cooperation (COCESNA); and attends the Signing of Memorandum of Understanding for the European Union-Latin America and Caribbean Aviation Partnership Project (EU-LAC APP).

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** in Sopot, Poland: attends the [European Forum for New Ideas](#).

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Budapest, Hungary: delivers a speech at the launch of the European School Sport Day organised by the [Hungarian School Sport Federation](#); and at the [European Democratic Students' Council](#) meeting.

Ms Corina **Crețu** in Bari, Italy: delivers a speech at the “Italy 2030”: the cities that shape the future of Europe” conference, organised by the European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development (URBACT).

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** in Washington, the United States: participates in the Axios event “Competing in a 5G World”; and meets Ms Jacob Funk Kirkegaard, researcher at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** receives Mr Tommy Ahlers, Minister for Higher Education and Science of Denmark.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Chamonix, Switzerland: participates in a debate on the impact of the Digital Economy on the Health sector at the [CHAM 2018](#) Convention on Health Analysis and Management.

Prévisions du mois d'octobre:

1/10 Eurogroup

2/10 Economic and Financial Affairs Council

5/10 Informal meeting of trade ministers

9/10 Environment Council

11 /10 Justice and Home Affairs Council

11-12/10/2018 Informal meeting of gender equality ministers

12/10 Justice and Home Affairs Council

12/10 Informal meeting of gender equality ministers

15/10 Foreign Affairs Council

15-16/10 Agriculture and Fisheries Council

15-16/10 General Affairs Council

16/10 Agriculture and Fisheries Council,

18/10 Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

Permanence DG COMM le WE du 29 au 30 septembre 2018:

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ESMA agrees to limit the application of tick sizes to systematic internalisers quotes for shares and depositary receipts

ESMA, considering the need to address the application of tick sizes to systematic internaliser (SIs) quotes in a timely fashion, has agreed to limit the application of tick sizes to quotes of SIs to shares and depositary receipts.

RTS 1 details the transparency requirements for equity instruments, including the quoting obligations for SIs under the Markets in Financial Instruments Regulation (MiFIR). Following a consultation, ESMA submitted a proposal to amend RTS 1 to the European Commission (EC) on 26 March 2018. ESMA's draft amendment proposed further specifying the concept of *prices reflecting prevailing market conditions*, and to clarify that SIs' quotes would only reflect prevailing market conditions where those quotes reflect the minimum price levels applicable to on-venue orders and quotes. On 10 August 2018, the EC informed ESMA of its intention to endorse the proposed amendments to RTS 1 with modifications.

Following an assessment of the EC's proposed modifications, ESMA considers that the EC's amendment will ensure the application of tick sizes to SIs' quotes for most equity instruments in a timely fashion. Therefore, ESMA has agreed to limit the application of tick sizes to quotes of SIs to shares and depositary receipts.

ESMA continues to believe that its proposal to tie systematic internaliser quotes to price levels that can be traded on trading venues for all equity and equity-like instruments better achieves the legislative goals expressed

in the empowerment of Article 14(7) of MiFIR. However, ESMA has agreed with the EC that any concerns about efficient valuation and price formation are most relevant for shares and depositary receipts.

Furthermore, ESMA also agreed with the other changes introduced by the EC that are of a more technical nature and not intended to change the substance of the ESMA proposals.

Next Steps

ESMA has sent its [opinion and revised draft RTS](#) for endorsement to the EC.

Remarks by President Donald Tusk after the Salzburg informal summit

Press contacts

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Let me start by thanking the beautiful city of Salzburg, the Austrian EU Presidency and you personally, Sebastian, for hosting this remarkable summit. It is a truly impressive; the hospitality, the logistics, and it is not an empty compliment. It is one of the best political performances I ever experienced. Congratulations.

As you mentioned, we have discussed migration, internal security and Brexit here in Salzburg.

The migration debate showed that we may not agree on everything but we agree on the main goal, which is stemming illegal migration to Europe. There was a constructive debate and good atmosphere and we decided to continue our focus on what unites us and what has already brought results. This means strengthening our external borders as well as strengthening cooperation with third countries. Such cooperation should not be just on migration or fighting smugglers and traffickers. It should be about a much broader vision of partnership.

Together with Chancellor Kurz we have started a dialogue with the Egyptian President and now we can say that there is a backing from the European Council for this and similar dialogues. I will meet President Al Sisi on Sunday to take this forward. And we will be reaching out to other African partners in the coming weeks, with Chancellor Kurz, the Commission and also

with a group of member states. In this context we also agreed to organise a summit with the League of Arab States in February next year, in Egypt.

On internal security we agreed priorities for immediate actions. That's why there is a shared determination to take forward the Commission's proposal for a strengthened European Border and Coast Guard as a priority. At the same time, as the Chancellor underlined, it is also clear that there are issues regarding sovereignty and the size of Frontex that will have to be further discussed. In addition, we agreed to step up the fight against all forms of cyber crime, manipulations and disinformation.

Fires this summer demonstrated the importance of the European cooperation and it is an example of concrete European solidarity. It is also in this context that we decided to speed up work on the Civil Protection Mechanism.

At our EU27 working lunch today we had a good discussion on Brexit, which once again reconfirmed our full unity. Let me highlight three points.

First, we reconfirmed that there will be no Withdrawal Agreement without a solid, operational and legally binding Irish backstop. And we continue to fully support Michel Barnier in his efforts to find such a model.

Second, we agreed to have a joint political declaration that provides as much clarity as possible on the future relations. Everybody shared the view that while there are positive elements in the Chequers proposal, the suggested framework for economic cooperation will not work. Not least because it risks undermining the Single Market.

Third, we also discussed the timetable for further negotiations. The moment of truth for Brexit negotiations will be the October European Council. In October we expect maximum progress and results in the Brexit talks. Then we will decide whether conditions are there to call an extraordinary summit in November to finalise and formalise the deal.

Thank you.

[Visit the meeting page](#) [Download as pdf](#)

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European evidence-based guidance on prevention and control of HCV in

prison settings (poster)

In the 31 EU/EEA countries, more than 590 000 persons are held in a custodial facility on any given day. According to recent reviews of prison studies from EU countries, prison prevalence estimates for HCV ranged from 4.3 % to 86.3 %.

People in prison also tend to have multiple complex health and social care needs resulting from a mix of specific socio-economic determinants and environmental factors. A significant proportion of people in prison have a history of drug use, and a strong association has been found between prison history and HCV prevalence in people who inject drugs.

Prisons are settings of increased risk for HCV transmission, while representing a unique opportunity to address the healthcare needs of those people in prison who belong to hard-to-reach and medically underserved groups in the community, such as people who inject drugs.