

# Remarks by President Donald Tusk after his meeting with Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg

Press contacts

## Preben Aamann

European Council President Spokesperson

+32 2 281 51 50

+32 476 85 05 43

Good afternoon. I am very happy to receive Prime Minister Erna Solberg today. When it comes to close partners, you simply cannot find one that is closer to us than Norway. And today such partners matter more than ever.

Our relations are close and stable. What keeps us together is more than just economic interests. What is important for the European Union is important for Norway, and vice-versa. Today I expressed my appreciation to the Prime Minister for the new, forward-looking strategy her government recently adopted regarding the EU, which reflects this spirit of cooperation.

We took stock of our bilateral relations, including within the European Economic Area. The EEA agreement has demonstrated its strength over the years. It has served both the EU and Norway well. It is here to stay and will be safeguarded from other current developments. We know that Brexit raises important questions also for the EEA EFTA countries. As close partners and friends, we stand ready to assist you in your talks with the UK and to keep you duly informed of the process ahead.

In our discussions today, we confirmed our commitment to the further strengthening of co-operation in the field of security and defence, including between NATO and the EU.

We also discussed our continued commitment to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and to the Middle East Peace Process. We touched on the Western Balkans, in light of the successful Summit in Sofia, and on the complicated situation we are witnessing in Turkey. I am happy to consider Norway an ally in all these efforts.

I also want to acknowledge the personal engagement of the Prime Minister on international development, as you have demonstrated again this morning in your address at the European Development Days. And we appreciate your commitment to the future of our oceans, and look forward to working together with you on this.

In the area of energy, we share much common ground. Norway remains a key supplier of gas and oil, but is also a partner in developing other

sources of energy. Our close cooperation is crucial for the EU's energy security and for the Energy Union. And we are both determined to implement the Paris Agreement.

Tusen takk!

[Download as pdf](#)

---

## **Pressemitteilung: Trotz Fortschritten liegt die Nutzung ultraschneller Breitbanddienste nach wie vor deutlich unter der Zielvorgabe, so das Fazit des Europäischen Rechnungshofs**

[Download PDF](#)

---

## **Remarks by President Donald Tusk after his meeting with President of Montenegro Milo Đukanović**

Press contacts

**Preben Aamann**

European Council President Spokesperson

+32 2 281 51 50

+32 476 85 05 43

Good afternoon. First of all, I wish to warmly welcome President Đukanović, my old friend, in Brussels and congratulate him on his election.

It is highly symbolic that President Đukanović decided to come to Brussels for his first official trip abroad. It is another confirmation that the European and Euro-Atlantic direction of Montenegro is beyond any doubt. In fact, Montenegro celebrates today its first anniversary of NATO membership and remains also a frontrunner in EU accession talks.

Last month, the leaders from both the European Union and the Western Balkans re-confirmed the European perspective as their firm strategic choice. Today more than ever, we need not only political declarations but also concrete actions.

Therefore, I would also like to see a faster progress in the accession talks with Montenegro. This means not only opening but also closing of new chapters. I told President Đukanović that the pace of talks is set by his country. A strong track record in the rule of law, fight against corruption and organised crime is essential. Just like thriving free media and civil society are an integral part.

We also discussed the domestic situation in Montenegro. I shared with President Đukanović my personal regrets that pro-European forces in his country are not able to cooperate within the existing institutions. I encouraged him to take leadership to overcome this strategic weakness. I believe that a full implementation of the recommendations made by international observers on the electoral process in his country could strengthen public trust in the institutions and in the vote's outcome.

Last but not least, I used our meeting to once again thank Montenegro for its unwavering solidarity with and support to our foreign and security policy.

[Download as pdf](#)

---

## **Statement by Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, on the volcanic eruption in Guatemala**

*The European Union expresses its solidarity with the people and authorities of Guatemala at this difficult time.*

*Our thoughts are with all the victims and their families and those missing as well as with the brave first responders and the emergency services working day and night to save lives and search for survivors.*

*The EU's emergency Copernicus satellite mapping service has been activated to help with the search and rescue operations.*

*The EU stands by the people of Guatemala and is ready to provide further assistance.*

---

## Daily News 05 / 06 / 2018

### **President Jean-Claude Juncker at the Brussels Economic Forum**

This morning, President **Juncker** delivered the 7th annual Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa Lecture at the Brussels Economic Forum, entitled: *“Protection, prosperity, progress: A stronger euro for a stronger Europe”*. Following the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Central Bank, President **Juncker** referred to the 340 million Europeans who use the euro every day, the fact that the euro area will soon represent 85% of the overall gross domestic product of the entire European Union, and that across the world, the euro is now the second most used reserve currency, with 60 countries now linking their currencies to the euro in one way or another. *“We should never underestimate how far the euro has come”* President **Juncker** said. With reference to the global financial and economic crisis, President **Juncker** emphasised the priority the Commission has placed on jobs and growth, launching the [Investment Plan for Europe](#), making full use of the flexibility within the rules of the Stability and Growth Pact, supporting young people to get into work via the [Youth Guarantee](#), and strengthening the Single Market and the digital economy. Looking ahead, President **Juncker** underlined that we need to make sure that our recovery benefits everyone: *“Some say this is a matter for national governments or for social partners alone. I say this is a matter for everyone in Europe”* he said, *“this is why we made it a priority to strengthen Europe’s social dimension as much as its economic dimension”*. In this regard, President **Juncker** welcomed the proclamation of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) by all leaders and institutions last November in Gothenburg, as well as the agreement on [Posted Workers](#). He called for further progress in the months to come on the Commission’s proposals on fair and transparent working conditions and on work-life balance, as well as on the proposal for a new [European Labour Authority](#). Looking to the Economic and Monetary Union, the architecture of which is much more robust than ever before, he said, adding that *“the job is not complete. We cannot be complacent about what remains to be done”*. This includes completing the EMU, the Banking Union, ensuring that the European Stability Mechanism plays the role of a common backstop, and reaching an agreement on the next long-term EU budget. *“We must never lose sight of what it is the Economic and Monetary Union stands for, and how it must continue to offer protection, prosperity and progress to all Europeans.”* President **Juncker** concluded. **The full speech is available [here](#)**. (For more information: Margaritis Schinas – Tel.: +32 229 60524)

### **Les Journées européennes du développement débutent aujourd’hui à Tour & Taxis**

Le président de la Commission européenne Jean-Claude **Juncker** a inauguré aujourd’hui les [12èmes Journées européennes du développement](#) (cérémonie d’ouverture disponible sur [EbS](#)). L’accent de cette édition est mis

sur le thème "Les femmes et les jeunes filles au cœur du développement durable: protéger, autonomiser, investir". Le président **Juncker** a déclaré à cette occasion: *"Aujourd'hui plus que jamais, nous devons lutter contre les violences faites aux femmes et favoriser leur émancipation. Parce que bâtir un monde meilleur pour les femmes, c'est bâtir un monde meilleur pour tous. Plus que jamais nous devons insister sur le multilatéralisme, et sur la nécessité pour l'Europe de jouer tout son rôle sur la scène internationale pour traiter ces sujets cruciaux. Parce que ensemble nous pouvons faire de grandes choses – et ensemble, nous le ferons."* Le premier vice-président **Frans Timmermans** participera aujourd'hui à 14h à un [panel de haut niveau sur l'augmentation de la représentation des femmes dans la prise de décision](#). Avec d'autres panelistes, il sera discuté de la façon de mobiliser plus d'hommes pour soutenir des leaders féminines dans les milieux politiques et économiques, ainsi que d'éliminer les obstacles pour les femmes. La haute représentante/vice-présidente **Federica Mogherini** s'adressera à 14h à un [panel de jeunes leaders](#) sur l'avancement de l'égalité dans le monde. Les jeunes panelistes partageront leurs expériences sur différentes problématiques liées à l'égalité des genres et dédieront une attention spéciale au besoin d'éducation pour tous, à l'inclusion politique et l'émancipation économique pour les jeunes. A 16h, la commissaire pour le commerce **Cecilia Malmström** s'exprimera avec d'autres participantssur les moyens concrets d'accélérer l'émancipation économique des femmes. **La discrimination de genre – également dans le domaine du commerce – signifie que, souvent, les femmes se retrouvent avec un travail instable, mal payé et reçoivent un salaire inégal pour un travail de même valeur.** Enfin, à 18h, le commissaire pour l'aide humanitaire et la gestion de crises **Christos Stylianides** animera un **panel de haut niveau sur l'éducation dans les situations d'urgence**. Lors d'un événement spécial sur [l'initiative Spotlight](#), le commissaire pour la coopération internationale et le développement **Neven Mimica** présenteral'état des lieux de cette initiative sans précédent de l'Union européenne et des Nations Unies pour éliminer toutes les formes de violences faites aux femmes dans le monde. Le commissaire **Mimica** a souligné: *"Les femmes et les jeunes filles sont à la tête du changement dont nous avons besoin, parfois dans des conditions les plus difficiles. Nous devons les soutenir dans leurs efforts, ainsi que les nombreux hommes et garçons courageux qui contribuent à changer certaines normes culturelles qui nous retiennent en arrière. Parce que l'émancipation des femmes n'est pas un jeu à somme nulle. Tout le monde y gagne."* A 14h, le commissaire **Mimica** participera également à l'annonce par la Commission européenne des gagnants du [prix média Lorenzo Natali](#), un prix européen remis à des journalistes pour leur travail remarquable de reportage sur le thème du développement durable. Hier, le commissaire **Mimica** a signé une [enveloppe d'aide de 50 millions d'euros pour le Burkina Faso](#). **Tous les discours et les panels de haut niveau seront disponibles [ici](#). Rejoignez la conversation sur Twitter sous le hashtag #EDD18 #shEDDs.** (for more information: *Carlos Martin Ruiz De Gordejuela – Tel.: +32 229 65322; Christina Wunder – Tel.: +32 229 92256*)

**Security Union: Strengthening Europol's cooperation with third countries to fight terrorism and serious organised crime**

Yesterday, the Council approved the Commission's proposal to strengthen Europol's cooperation with third countries and fight terrorism and other serious transnational crime more effectively – an important deliverable under the anti-terrorism package presented by the Commission in [October 2017](#). The negotiating mandates approved by the Council will allow the Commission to start talks with eight countries on behalf of the EU – Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey – on the exchange of information, including personal data, with Europol. Commissioner for Migration, Citizenship and Home Affairs, Dimitris **Avramopoulos** said: *“From the very beginning, I have worked towards strengthening Europol's role both inside and outside the EU. Terrorists and criminals act across borders not just in Europe but globally. We need to work closely with our neighbours and key partners to strengthen our global resilience in the fight against terrorism and organised crime, and contribute to a safer and more secure world for everyone.”* Commissioner for the Security Union Julian **King**: *“I welcome the decision by the Council to strengthen Europol's cooperation with third countries. We need to give Europol the right tools and resources to protect Europeans, including exchange of key information with our neighbours. I am pleased to see that the EU Justice and Home Affairs Ministers share this view.”* When concluded, the agreements will provide a legal basis for the exchange of personal data between Europol and with the competent authorities of the eight countries for the purpose of preventing and combatting terrorism and serious organised crime. The agreements will establish adequate safeguards with respect to the protection of privacy and fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals. The Commission recommended the Council authorise the opening of negotiations for these eight agreements on [20 December 2017](#). For more information please see the October 2017 [press release](#) on the anti-terrorism package. (For more information: *Natasha Bertaud – Tel.: +32 229 67456; Tove Ernst – Tel.: +32 229 86764; Katarzyna Kolanko – Tel.: +32 229 63444*)

### **Eurostat: Volume of retail trade up by 0.1% in euro area**

In April 2018 compared with March 2018, the seasonally adjusted volume of retail trade increased by 0.1% in the euro area (EA19) and increased by 0.4% in the EU28, according to estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In March, the retail trade volume increased by 0.4% in the euro area and by 0.2% in the EU28. In April 2018 compared with April 2017 the calendar adjusted retail sales index increased by 1.7% both in the euro area and in the EU28. A press release is available [here](#). (For more information: *Lucia Caudet – Tel.: +32 229 56182; Maud Noyon – Tel.: +32 229 80379*)

### **Competition: Commission agrees framework for dialogue on competition policy issues with Mexico**

Commissioner Margrethe **Vestager**, in charge of competition policy, and Chairwoman Alejandra Palacios of Mexico's competition authority COFECE signed yesterday in Brussels a cooperation arrangement between the two competition authorities. The arrangement between the EU's and Mexico's competition authorities provides a framework for dialogue on competition policy issues and for sharing views, as well as non-confidential information on individual

cases. In particular, the arrangement provides for: i) the exchange of information on competition laws and policies, on multilateral initiatives and advocacy efforts; ii) coordination of the enforcement activities of the two competition authorities when working on the same or related matters; iii) the possibility for one of the two competition authorities to refer a case to the other, if it involves anti-competitive practices carried out in the latter's territory; iv) cooperation on technical matters, for instance through training or exchange of officials. The signing of this framework for a dialogue on competition policy issues reflects the ambition of enhanced cooperation on competition matters between the EU and Mexico, to the benefit of both. Commissioner **Vestager**, responsible for competition policy, said: *"We can all benefit from working with other competition authorities to promote fair global competition. This new framework for dialogue will give further impetus to our excellent cooperation with Mexico's competition authority. We have now formalised the basis for this cooperation and are committed to intensifying our ties, to the benefit of consumers and companies in Mexico and the EU."* A full press release is available in [EN](#), [FR](#), [DE](#), [ES](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

#### **Mergers: Commission clears the acquisition of LifeScan by Platinum**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of control over LifeScan, Inc. by Platinum Equity, both of the US. LifeScan, currently part of Johnson&Johnson, provides blood glucose monitoring systems for home and hospital use under the global brand OneTouch. Platinum Equity is a private investment company, active in a wide range of businesses, including information technology, telecommunications, logistics, metal services, manufacturing and distribution. The Commission concluded that the proposed transaction would raise no competition concerns given the lack of horizontal overlaps and vertical relationships between the companies' activities. 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.8887](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

#### **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of TireHub by Goodyear and Bridgestone**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the creation of the joint venture TireHub, LLC, by Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company ("Goodyear") of the US and Bridgestone Corporation of Japan ("Bridgestone"). TireHub will combine the US tyre wholesale distribution businesses of Bridgestone and Goodyear to offer wholesale, distribution and delivery services to customers for a wide range of products and an expanded network of locations across the US. Goodyear is active in the manufacture and distribution of tyres and related products as well as services worldwide. Bridgestone is active in the manufacture and sale of tyres as well as rubber products worldwide. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because TireHub will only be active in the US. 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.8906](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Commission invites applications for new European Sustainability Award

The European Commission is launching today the first ever European Sustainability Award, to recognise the efforts and creativity of European people, businesses and organisations who work towards reaching the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Award will champion inspiring initiatives which provide concrete solutions for achieving the Goals. First Vice-President Frans **Timmermans** said: *“The EU led the way in negotiating the Sustainable Development Goals, and now we must lead the way in implementing them. This award will celebrate those that help to make it happen”*. Vice-President Jyrki **Katainen** added: *“Innovation and creativity are crucial elements of making the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for Europe and the world. I am pleased that we can draw attention to some of the great projects which are making a contribution.”* Applications can be submitted until 14 September 2018 [here](#). The winners of the award will be selected by a jury of members from the Commission’s Multi-Stakeholder Platform on the Sustainable Development Goals, and will be announced at a high-level ceremony in Spring 2019 by First Vice-President **Timmermans** and Vice-President **Katainen**. (For more information: Natasha Bertaud – Tel.: +32 229 67456; Tim McPhie – Tel.: +32 229 58602)

### Commissioner Navracsics to welcome Kosovo to the Erasmus+ and Creative Europe programmes

Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor **Navracsics**, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport of Kosovo, Kujtim Gashi and the Minister of Education, Science and Technology of Kosovo, Shyqiri Bytyqi will today sign an Agreement on Kosovo’s participation in the [Erasmus+](#) and [Creative Europe](#) programmes. Ahead of the ceremony taking place in Brussels, Commissioner **Navracsics** said: *“The participation of Kosovo in the Erasmus+ and Creative Europe programmes will further strengthen our cooperation in the fields of culture, education, youth and sport. I am particularly pleased that Kosovo joins at a time when we celebrate the European Year of Cultural Heritage.”* The Agreement will have to be ratified by the Kosovar Parliament before applicants from Kosovo are eligible to participate in the 2018 Creative Europe calls for proposals. Kosovo is joining the [Culture sub-programme](#) and the [cross-sectoral strand](#) of Creative Europe. The Agreement marks an important step in the implementation of the EU strategy for [“A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans”](#). Last week, the Commission presented its proposals to increase the budgets for both [Erasmus+](#) and [Creative Europe](#) for 2012-2027. (For more information: Nathalie Vandystadt – Tel.: +32 229 67083; Joseph

Waldstein – Tel.: +32 229 56184)

## **First Vice-President Timmermans to visit Denmark**

On Wednesday 6 June and Thursday 7 June, Commission First Vice-President Frans **Timmermans** will be in Denmark to meet with citizens, civil society and the Danish Government and Parliament. After his arrival in Copenhagen on Wednesday afternoon, Mr Timmermans will participate in a Citizens' Dialogue co-hosted by the Danish Trade Union Confederation (LO) and the Commission Representation in Denmark, which can be followed online [here](#) at 17.30. On Thursday morning, the First Vice-President will attend the [Danish Management Society Summit \(VL\)](#) at Borreby Castle, where he takes part in a panel discussion on 'The European Economy – A Powerhouse Going Forward?' and will discuss the circular economy in a meeting with Danish CEOs. On Thursday afternoon, the First Vice-President returns to Copenhagen, where he will meet Prime Minister Mr Lars Lokke Rasmussen, before concluding his visit with a meeting with members of the Danish Parliament's European Affairs Committee. (For more information: *Natasha Bertaud – Tel.: +32 229 67456; Tim McPhie – Tel.: +32 229 58602*)

## **STATEMENTS**

### **Statement by Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, on the volcanic eruption in Guatemala**

*"The European Union expresses its solidarity with the people and authorities of Guatemala at this difficult time. Our thoughts are with all the victims and their families and those missing as well as with the brave first responders and the emergency services working day and night to save lives and search for survivors. The EU's emergency Copernicus satellite mapping service has been activated to help with the search and rescue operations. The EU stands by the people of Guatemala and is ready to provide further assistance."* The statement is available [online](#). (For more information: *Carlos Martin Ruiz De Gordejuela – Tel.: +32 229 65322; Daniel Puglisi – Tel.: +32 229 69140*)

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