

Le Président Juncker participe au Sommet social tripartite

Aujourd'hui, le Président de la Commission européenne, Jean-Claude **Juncker**, participera au Sommet social tripartite pour la Croissance et l'Emploi. Il sera accompagné par Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Vice-Président pour l'Euro et le Dialogue social, la Stabilité financière, les services financiers et l'union des marchés des capitaux; et Marianne **Thyssen**, Commissaire pour l'Emploi, les Affaires sociales, les Compétences et la Mobilité des travailleurs. Le Sommet social tripartite a lieu deux fois par an et est une occasion d'avoir un dialogue entre les institutions européennes au niveau présidentiel et les partenaires sociaux européens (syndicats et organisations d'employeurs). Avant le [Sommet social pour une croissance et des emplois équitables, qui aura lieu le 17 novembre à Göteborg](#), le thème de la réunion aujourd'hui est 'Façonner l'avenir de l'Europe: renforcer la résilience et promouvoir le progrès social et économique pour tous'. Les discussions se concentreront sur la dimension sociale de l'Europe et les progrès accomplis – y compris sur le [Socle européen des droits sociaux](#) et la [note de réflexion sur la dimension sociale de l'Europe](#). Les participants parleront également des façons visant à améliorer l'implication des partenaires sociaux dans les politiques et les réformes au niveau national, et l'investissement dans l'apprentissage à l'ère numérique. Une conférence de presse aura lieu vers 17h15 et peut être suivie [ici](#). Plus d'informations sur le Sommet sont disponibles [ici](#). Une déclaration conjointe sera publiée [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Christian Wigand– Tel.: +32 229 62253; Sara Soumillion – Tel.: + 32 229 67094)

Security Union: Commission presents new measures to better protect EU citizens

The Commission is today presenting alongside its 11th Security Union Report a set of operational and practical measures to better defend EU citizens against terrorist threats and deliver a Europe that protects. The measures aim to address vulnerabilities exposed by recent attacks and will support Member States in protecting public spaces and help deprive terrorists of the means to act. The Commission is also proposing to further strengthen the EU's external action on counter-terrorism – including through Europol – and is recommending the EU open negotiations on a revised Passenger Name Record agreement with Canada. First Vice-President Frans **Timmermans** said: *"The new actions announced today will help Member States to deprive terrorists of the means to carry out their evil acts and will also better protect our public spaces, and thus our way of life."* Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris **Avramopoulos** said: *"Terrorism knows no borders. We will only be able to fight it effectively if we do so jointly – both within the EU and with our partners on a global scale."* Commissioner for the Security Union Julian **King** said: *"As terrorist tactics change, we are stepping up our support to Member States in meeting these threats: helping protect the public spaces where people gather, while cutting off terrorists' access to dangerous bomb-making materials, and sources of finance."* A [press release](#) and [Q&A](#) as well as a [factsheet on protecting public spaces](#) will be

available at the start of the press conference with Commissioner King, which follows the readout of the College meeting and which will be broadcast [live on EbS](#). (For more information: *Natasha Bertaud – Tel.: +32 229 67456; Tove Ernst – Tel.: +32 229 86764; Markus Lammert – Tel.: +32 299 80423*)

EU-U.S. Privacy Shield: First review shows it works but implementation can be improved

Today the Commission has published the first annual report on the functioning of the EU- U.S. Privacy Shield. It shows that in its first year of operation this framework has ensured adequate protection and safeguards for personal data transferred from the EU to the U.S. All the necessary administrative structures and procedures have been put in place in the U.S., including new redress possibilities for Europeans. Safeguards regarding access to personal data by U.S. public authorities are in place. However, the implementation of the framework can be improved further. Vice-President **Ansip** said: *"Making international data transfers sound, safe and secure benefits certified companies and European consumers and businesses, including EU SMEs."*

Commissioner **Jourová** added: *"Our first review shows that the Privacy Shield works well, but there is room for improving its implementation. The Privacy Shield is not a document lying in a drawer. It's a living agreement that both the EU and U.S. must actively monitor to ensure we keep guard over our high data protection standards"*. The 2017 report suggests a number of ways in which this can be done, including awareness raising for EU individuals about how to exercise their rights under the Privacy Shield and more proactive and regular monitoring of companies' compliance with their Privacy Shield obligations by the U.S. Department of Commerce, as well as stepping up cooperation between privacy enforcers, amongst other measures. A press release with more information will be available [here](#) when the press conference starts, as well as [Q&As](#) on the Privacy Shield. (For more information: *Christian Wigand– Tel.: +32 229 62253; Mélanie Voin – Tel.: +32 229 58659*)

Mergers: Commission opens in-depth investigation into proposed merger of Celanese's and Blackstone's acetate tow activities

The Commission has opened an in-depth investigation to assess under the EU Merger Regulation the proposed creation of an acetate flake and acetate tow joint venture by Celanese and Blackstone. The Commission has concerns that the transaction may reduce competition in the acetate tow market, where the joint venture would be a new market leader in an already highly concentrated market. After its initial investigation, the Commission considers that the only two remaining major competitors would not exert sufficient competitive pressure on the merged entity, while the industry is characterised by high barriers to entry. Moreover, the Commission has preliminary concerns that the proposed transaction would make tacit coordination between tow suppliers more likely. The full press release is available online in [EN](#), [FR](#), [DE](#). (For more information: *Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Yizhou Ren – Tel.: +32 229 94889*)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Maple by Borealis, Ontario Teacher's Pension Plan Board and SSE

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control over Maple Topco Limited of the UK by Borealis European Holdings B.V. of the Netherlands, ultimately controlled by the Omers Administration Corporation of Canada, Ontario Teacher's Pension Plan Board (OTPP) of Canada and SSE Plc of the UK. Maple is active in meter asset provision to energy suppliers in the UK. Borealis is a manager for Omers which is the administrator of the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System Primary Pension Plan. OTPP is the administrator of Canada's largest single-profession pension plan. SSE is an energy company with operations in the UK and Ireland. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because of the limited overlap 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.8623](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Yizhou Ren – Tel.: +32 229 94889)

EU Anti-Trafficking Day: Stronger action needed to fight trafficking in human beings

To mark the 11th EU Anti-Trafficking Day, the European Commission is today calling for a renewed commitment to eradicating trafficking in human beings. Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris **Avramopoulos** said: *"Every day, women and girls, men and boys, EU and non-EU citizens, are exploited by unscrupulous traffickers for profit. On EU Anti-Trafficking Day, we are reminded of the gravity of this heinous crime, which often has strong links with cross-border organised crime and takes advantage of irregular migration routes. It is imperative that all authorities and stakeholders strengthen their work on prevention by untangling the complex chain of trafficking, reducing demand, following the money and ensuring better access to justice for the victims. We stand ready to further support our Member States and cooperate more closely with our international partners in working towards eradicating trafficking in human beings." The Commission will shortly publish its priority actions to address trafficking in human beings. These will build on the ongoing work, taking stock of the achievements of the [EU strategy 2012-2016](#) and ensuring the continuation of efforts, including coordination with stakeholders and increasing the knowledge base.* (For more information: Natasha Bertaud – Tel.: +32 229 67456; Tove Ernst – Tel.: +32 229 86764; Markus Lammert – Tel.: +32 299 80423)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

19 October Commissioner Andriukaitis – Citizens' Dialogue in Bucharest

Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Vytenis **Andriukaitis**, is on official visit to Romania on 19 – 20 October. During his official visit, he will meet with the Prime Minister of Romania, Mr Mihai Tudose, as well as Mr Petre Daea, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. Later on Thursday, he

will hold a [Citizens' Dialogue](#) together with Mr Florian-Dorel Bodog, Minister of Health, in Bucharest at 17:30 EEST, which can be followed [live](#). In addition to health and food safety topics, Commissioner invites citizens to discuss general issues related to the European Union. Citizens and media can attend the debate in person. (For more information: Anca Paduraru – Tel.: +32 229 91269; Aikaterini Apostola – Tel.: +32 229 87624)

La Commissaire Thyssen participe au lancement de la Carte européenne du handicap en Belgique

Demain, le 19 octobre, la Commissaire chargée de l'Emploi, des Affaires sociales, des Compétences et de la Mobilité des travailleurs, Marianne **Thyssen**, participera au lancement belge de la Carte européenne du handicap. La Carte européenne du handicap fait partie d'un projet pilote financé par la Commission européenne visant à rendre certaines prestations dans le domaine de la culture, les loisirs, le sport et le transport plus visibles, transparentes et accessibles aux personnes handicapées quand celles-ci voyagent en Europe. Actuellement, il n'y a pas de reconnaissance mutuelle du statut d'handicap entre les Etats-Membres de l'UE, ce qui rend les choses difficiles pour les personnes handicapées voyageant dans d'autres pays de l'UE. Par exemple, leurs cartes nationales du handicap pourraient ne pas être reconnues. La Carte européenne du handicap améliorera cette situation. A la veille du lancement, la Commissaire **Thyssen** a dit: *"Un handicap ne disparaît pas en franchissant une frontière européenne. La Commission européenne a lancé la Carte européenne du handicap afin d'assurer un égal accès aux gens handicapés aux musées, parcs d'attraction ou centres sportifs de tous les pays participants. Je félicite la Belgique d'être l'un des premiers pays à mettre en place la Carte européenne du handicap. J'espère que beaucoup de pays suivront rapidement cet exemple. La Carte européenne du handicap est une étape importante vers une société plus équitable à laquelle chacun peut participer pleinement."* Le projet pilote a été lancé en février 2016 dans 8 pays: la Belgique, Chypre, l'Estonie, la Finlande, l'Italie, Malte, la Slovénie et la Roumanie. Plus d'informations sur le projet pilote et la Carte européenne du handicap sont disponibles [ici](#). Un communiqué de presse contenant davantage d'informations sur l'événement de lancement sera publié [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Christian Wigand– Tel.: +32 229 62253; Sara Soumillion – Tel.: + 32 229 67094)

Commissioners Crețu and Navracsics at the Danube Strategy annual forum

Commissioner for Regional policy Corina **Crețu** and Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor **Navracsics**, are in Budapest today and tomorrow to attend the 6th annual forum of the [Danube macro-regional strategy](#), entitled "A secure, connected and prospering Danube Region". Commissioner **Crețu** said: *"To me there is no greater priority than better connectivity in the region, encompassing land transport and navigability. This is key to unlock the full potential of the Danube Strategy. Political commitment and coordination are crucial here."* Commissioner **Navracsics** said: *"The concerns of people in the Danube region range from air quality to traffic congestion and from energy security to water quality. The work of the*

Commission's Joint Research Centre, such as a new dashboard offering better access to data, enables authorities across the Danube region respond to their citizens' concerns more effectively." The Danube Strategy is one of the four [macro-regional strategies](#). It was launched in April 2011, gathering nine EU countries (Austria, Croatia, Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria) and five non-EU countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine). The ministers in charge of the Strategy will tomorrow adopt a joint statement setting out principles and priorities for the future – regional energy security, infrastructure development and clean connectivity, which can be boosted with an optimised use of EU funds. Also at the forum, the Commission's [Joint Research Centre](#), for which Commissioner Navracsics is responsible, will present the latest addition to the Commission's [Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies](#), [the Territorial Dashboard](#). This tool visualises data for all EU regions – on the economy, education, employment, health, energy or transport – in a user-friendly way. This will help regional authorities of the Danube region to target investments where they are most needed and where they can have the greatest impact. *(For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Nathalie Vandystadt – Tel.: +32 229 67083; Sophie Dupin de Saint-Cyr – Tel.: +32 229 56169; Joseph Waldstein – Tel.: +32 229 56184; Julia-Henriette Bräuer – Tel.: +32 229 80707)*

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

[European Committee of the Regions: Highlights of the October plenary week](#)

#CohesionAlliance

Cohesion policy – the EU's main investment and solidarity tool – has reduced disparities, spread innovation and brought sustainable growth. It must continue to be a pillar of the EU in the future and not be undermined by the financial impact of Brexit or the need to fund new tasks. This message was delivered by EU, national local and civil society leaders who gathered in Brussels to launch the

[#CohesionAlliance](#)

during the opening of the

[European Week of Regions and Cities](#)

.

Press releases:

[#CohesionAlliance: Europe-wide coalition demands a strong and more effective EU regional policy after 2020](#)

[#CohesionAlliance: MEPs join local leaders' fight for a strong cohesion policy post 2020](#)

[Building the Cohesion Alliance](#)

"State of the European Union: the View of Regions and Cities"

In the context of the ongoing political debate on the future of Europe,

[President Lambertz's Address](#)

(

[video](#)

,

[speech](#)

) aimed to take stock of the current achievements of EU's cities and regions and look ahead to the main challenges for the coming years. President Lambertz touched upon a series of key EU issues for local and regional authorities, ranging from regaining citizens' trust and the future of cohesion policy, to migration, Brexit and Europe's social model.

Lambertz insisted that, "

Just as the European level influences the local and regional levels, local and regional levels should now be able to exert their full influence at European level

". To further make the voices of cities and regions heard, he announced that the CoR would hold a "European Union Summit of Regions and Cities" in the first quarter of 2019 to "

send clear, specific messages to the heads of state or government and to the leaders of the Union

“.

Press release:

[#SOTREG:](#)

[President Lambertz delivers first annual “State of the European Union: the View of Regions and Cities” address](#)

COP 23

Less than a month ahead UN climate talks in COP23, **Commissioner Cañete** addressed the assembly saying that Europe will pursue its global leadership on climate and reiterated the vital role cities and regions play in combating global warming. Members adopted

[Marco Dus \(IT/PES\) opinion on climate finance](#)

.
During the COP23, cities and regions will look for enhanced cooperation with US and Canadian cities and defend

[Andrew’s Cooper \(UK/EA\) concept of Locally Determined Contributions](#)

to be established in addition to Nationally Determined Contributions to help bridge the emissions gap.

Press release:

[#COP23: Climate change: EU regions and cities look to cooperate across borders to deliver the Paris Agreement](#)

[Local targets agreed to tackle climate change](#)

Disaster risk reduction

A call by **Karl-Heinz Lambertz** for the European Union

to invest heavily to reduce the risks posed by earthquakes and extreme weather conditions was echoed by the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, **Robert Glasser**, and the EU's Commissioner for Regional Policy, **Corina Cretu**. The special representative and the EU Commissioner were speaking on 12 October at a conference co-organised by the CoR and the UN to mark the International Day for Disaster Reduction (13 October). Helping cities to become more resilient and adapt to climate change was a major theme at the European Week of Regions and Cities and in the

[CoR's plenary](#)

. The UN and the CoR are working together to encourage regional and local governments to adopt risk-reduction strategies.

Press release:

[Natural disasters: EU must invest locally today, to save lives tomorrow](#)

Broadband Platform

"High-speed broadband connectivity is a cornerstone of the EU's Digital Single Market and a prerequisite for competitiveness at global level"

, stated CoR President at the inaugural meeting of the Broadband Platform in the presence of the Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, **Mariya Gabriel**. The new platform, which has been set up jointly by the CoR and the European Commission, aims to help high-speed broadband reach all European regions, including rural and sparsely populated areas where there is not enough market-driven development. Participants, who include 12 CoR members, will meet twice a year to discuss various topics related to broadband deployment: policy and governance, technology choices, financial sources, regulatory framework.

Press release:

[Broadband Platform: Cities and regions join forces with the Commission to narrow the digital divide](#)

Other topics:

Further material:

Contact:

pressecdr@cor.europa.eu

Mergers: Commission opens in-depth investigation into proposed merger of Celanese's and Blackstone's acetate tow activities

The proposed joint venture would combine the acetate flake and tow activities of Celanese with Blackstone's recently acquired portfolio company Acetow, which is active in the same areas. The joint venture would be a new market leader in the already highly concentrated acetate tow market.

Acetate flake is a chemical derivative of wood pulp that is mainly used in the manufacture of acetate tow. Acetate tow is a fibrous material made from acetate flake and is used to manufacture cigarette filters.

The Commission's preliminary concerns

The Commission has preliminary concerns that the proposed transaction could reduce competition in the acetate tow market.

Celanese and Blackstone's Acetow are, respectively, the second and third largest manufacturers of acetate tow at global level excluding China. The merged entity would become the new market leader with the risk of significantly reducing competition in the industry.

After its initial investigation, the Commission considers that Eastman and Daicel, the only two remaining major competitors, would not exert sufficient competitive pressure on the merged entity. Moreover, the industry is characterised by high barriers to entry.

Finally, the Commission has preliminary concerns that the proposed transaction would make tacit coordination between tow suppliers more likely.

The transaction was notified to the Commission on 12 September 2017. The Commission now has 90 working days, until 5 March 2018, to take a decision.

The opening of an in-depth inquiry does not prejudice the final result of the investigation.

Companies and products

Celanese Corporation is a US incorporated technology and specialty materials company listed on the New York Stock Exchange. It operates mainly in North America, Europe and Asia. Celanese's business segment relevant to the proposed transaction concerns the manufacture and supply of acetate flake and acetate tow used to manufacture cigarette filters.

Blackstone Group L.P. is a global asset manager. It is headquartered in the US and is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Blackstone acquired Acetow from Solvay in December 2016. Acetow is active in the manufacture and supply of acetate flake and acetate tow used to manufacture cigarette filters.

Merger control rules and procedures

The Commission has the duty to assess mergers and acquisitions involving companies with a turnover above certain thresholds (see Article 1 of the [Merger Regulation](#)) and to prevent concentrations that would significantly impede effective competition in the EEA or any substantial part of it.

The vast majority of notified mergers do not pose competition problems and are cleared after a routine review. From the moment a transaction is notified, the Commission generally has 25 working days to decide whether to grant approval (Phase I) or to start an in-depth investigation (Phase II).

In addition to the current transaction, there are three on-going phase II merger investigations: the [proposed acquisition of NXP by Qualcomm](#), the [proposed acquisition of Monsanto by Bayer](#) and the [proposed merger between Essilor and Luxottica](#).

More information will be available on the competition [website](#), in the Commission's public [case register](#) under the case number [M.8547](#).

Daily News 17 / 10 / 2017

EU approves €100 million in financial assistance for Jordan

Today, the European Commission will disburse a €100 million loan to Jordan under the [EU's Macro-Financial Assistance \(MFA\) programme](#). Commissioner Pierre **Moscovici**, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, said: *"Today's decision to disburse €100 million to Jordan under a new MFA programme demonstrates the EU's continued support for the country in these challenging times. I look forward to continuing our work with the Jordanian authorities on their reform programme and in securing a stable, stronger*

economy for Jordan to the benefit of its entire population.” This disbursement marks the launch of the second [Macro-Financial Assistance programme for Jordan](#) with a total worth of €200 million, which follows a first package of €180 million approved in 2013 and fully disbursed in 2015. The disbursement of the second €100 million instalment is expected to take place during the course of 2018, depending on Jordan fulfilling agreed commitments. The aim of this assistance is to strengthen the country’s foreign exchange reserve position and to help Jordan meet its balance of payments and budgetary financing needs. The MFA programme will also support reforms in a number of areas. These include public finance management, tax and social safety net systems, education and professional training, trade policies and active labour market policies aimed at increasing employment opportunities for both Jordanian citizens and Syrian refugees living in Jordan. A press release is available [here](#). (For more information: Annika Breidhardt – Tel.: +32 229 56153; Enda McNamara – Tel.: +32 229 64976)

EU-funded physicists involved in ground-breaking astronomic discovery

*For the first time ever scientists have observed a collision of two neutron stars. They used two different kinds of methodologies, gravitational waves and light. These ground-breaking results were presented yesterday by the research teams behind the discovery of gravitational waves – work which recently earned three of their leading researchers the [2017 Nobel Prize in Physics](#). 11 fellows from the EU funded project GraWIToN have participated in this observation. The project is funded with €3.7 million under the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#). Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos **Moedas**, underlined the extraordinary nature of the observation: “Today marks a new approach in astronomy. From now on researchers are able to both see and hear cosmic events to better understand them. I am proud that EU funding contributed to their pioneering revelations.” Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor **Navracsics**, emphasised that “this discovery again proves that our investment in excellent researchers leads to important scientific breakthroughs. Here, the results have the potential to revolutionise astrophysics, but the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions support research that helps us tackle the big challenges facing Europe across the board”. The discovery will further deepen our grasp of the universe demonstrating that gold and platinum are formed in large cosmic collisions. The research was conducted by the LIGO observatory in the US, the Virgo detector in Italy, and other facilities including the European Southern Observatory (ESO). The EU has supported ESO with over €14 million in the past ten years. Further information is available in a Horizon magazine [article](#) and a [news item](#). (For more information: Nathalie Vandystadt – Tel.: +32 229 67083; Lucía Caudet – Tel.: +32 229 56182; Joseph Waldstein – Tel.: +32 229 56184; Victoria von Hammerstein – Tel.: +32 229 55040)*

1 million refugees in Turkey reached by EU’s Emergency Social Safety Net

The EU funded Emergency Social Safety Net programme has now reached one million refugees living in Turkey. Launched by the European Commission in September 2016, and implemented by the World Food Programme and the Turkish

Red Crescent in collaboration with the Turkish government, the flagship programme is the largest ever humanitarian aid operation funded by the European Union. Visiting Turkey today, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos **Stylianides** said: *"Today is a milestone for the life-changing results achieved by our biggest ever aid programme; and for the EU delivering on its commitments to Turkey. We have made a difference for a staggering 1 million people already. With the commitment and work of our partners, the impact of the programme grows by the day. Turkey continues to host the largest refugee population in the world. It is our humanitarian and moral duty to help refugees that have fled war and persecution."* The €348 million programme is financed through the [EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey](#). A full press release is available [here](#). (For more information: Carlos Martin Ruiz de Gordejuela – Tel.: +32 229 65322; Daniel Puglisi – Tel.: +32 229 69140)

Criminal justice: making better use of the European Arrest Warrant

The European Commission is releasing today a handbook to support judicial authorities to make better use of the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) to improve the fight against cross-border crime. Commissioner **Jourová** opened the High Level Expert meeting on the European Arrest Warrant today, where this handbook was presented. She said ahead of this event: *"The European Arrest Warrant is a success story. It shortens drastically the time for criminals to be transferred from one EU country to the other. It allows these criminals to be brought to justice in the country where they committed their crime. A more efficient cooperation between justice authorities will improve safety in Europe "*. Since its launch in 2004, the European Arrest Warrant has been the most used EU instrument of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, with 16,144 European Arrest Warrants issued in 2015. The European Arrest Warrant allowed for the speedy extradition of, for example, a terrorist involved in the Paris attacks caught in Brussels and a gang of armed robbers sought by Italy whose members were arrested in six different EU countries. The handbook provides a series of tips and recommendations to help judges and practitioners when they issue or execute a European Arrest Warrant. The handbook, factsheets and statistics are available [online](#). (For more information: Christian Wigand– Tel.: +32 229 62253; Mélanie Voin – Tel.: +32 229 58659)

Developing Europe's Digital Platform for cultural heritage: public consultation opens

How can digital culture enrich your daily life and work? Do you share, access or use cultural heritage materials online? Today, the Commission launches a [public consultation](#) to hear the opinions from citizens and organisations with a personal or professional interest in digital culture available online. The Commission wants to know how citizens, professionals and organisations use [Europeana](#), the European online platform for culture heritage that is visited approximately 700,000 times per month. The platform gives access to over 53

million items including image, text, sound, video and 3D material from the collections of over 3,700 libraries, archives, museums, galleries and audio-visual collections across Europe. The platform can be used by teachers, artists, data professionals in cultural institutions and creative fields but also everyone looking for information on culture. The public consultation will help to identify through an independent evaluation how Europeana is currently used and how this can be improved and made more accessible for everyone. For example, the platform provides content also for re-use in the education, research or creative sectors of which many people are not yet aware. The results of the consultation will contribute to further develop Europeana's offers and increase its visibility and use for the European culture heritage online. Europeana will also be closely associated to the [European Year of Cultural Heritage](#) in 2018. The public consultation will be open in all EU languages until 14 January 2018 [here](#). (For more information: Nathalie Vandystadt – Tel.: +32 229 67083; Inga Höglund – Tel.: +32 229 50698)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Pattonair by Platinum

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of Pattonair Holdings Limited of the UK by Platinum Equity Group of the US. Pattonair is a global aerospace distributor, providing aircraft parts, value-adding logistics and supply chain management services. Platinum is specialised in mergers, acquisitions and operation of companies in a broad range of businesses, including information technology, telecommunications, logistics, metal services, manufacturing and distribution. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, because Platinum is not engaged in any business activity related to Pattonair's business. 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.8646](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

Eurostat: Le taux d'inflation annuel stable à 1,5% dans la zone euro

Le taux d'inflation annuel de la zone euro s'est établi à 1,5% en septembre 2017, stable par rapport à août 2017. Un an auparavant, il était de 0,4%. Le taux d'inflation annuel de l'Union européenne s'est établi à 1,8% en septembre 2017, contre 1,7% en août 2017. Un an auparavant, il était de 0,4%. Ces chiffres sont publiés par Eurostat, l'office statistique de l'Union européenne. Un communiqué de presse est disponible [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Annika Breidthardt – Tel.: Juliana Dahl – Tel.: +32 229 59914)

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

September 2017 – Annual inflation stable at 1.5% in the euro area – Up to 1.8% in the EU

Euro area annual inflation was 1.5% in September 2017, stable compared with August 2017. In September 2016 the rate was 0.4%. **European Union** annual inflation was 1.8% in September 2017, up from 1.7% in August 2017. A year earlier the rate was 0.4%. These figures come from **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

[Full text available on EUROSTAT website](#)