

Daily News 13 / 10 / 2017

Employment: Commission report shows increased wage growth and swifter transitions from unemployment to employment

Today, the Commission published its yearly [report on Labour Market and Wage Developments in Europe](#). This year's edition confirms the positive labour market trends that have been witnessed in the EU. EU employment has surpassed pre-crisis levels with more than 235 million people at work. Unemployment which now stands at 7.6% is also approaching levels prior to the recession. In addition, the report shows that it has become easier for unemployed people to find a job, and that wages increased in almost all Member States – in the euro area they rose by 1.2% in 2016. On the other hand, more flexible working arrangements have brought advantages to both firms and individuals, but have led in some cases to a divide between workers holding different types of contracts, with people in temporary employment and self-employment being less well protected. Marianne **Thyssen**, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, commented: *"More and more people in Europe are able to find a job and we witness the highest employment level ever recorded. Europe is reaping the benefits of targeted policy reforms. At the same time we need to address further challenges. We must ensure fair working conditions and protection for all workers, independent of their employment status. On the basis of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#), which we launched on 26 April, we are working to [modernise the rules on employment contracts](#) and social protection to achieve better working and living conditions across the EU."* More information can be found in the press release [online](#). The report is available [here](#). (For more information: Christian Wigand– Tel.: +32 229 62253; Sara Soumillion – Tel.: + 32 229 67094)

Investment Plan in Portugal: inauguration of Mecachrome titanium manufacturing plant in Évora

After receiving support from the Investment Plan for Europe, Mecachrome Aeronáutica today inaugurated its new plant for manufacturing titanium parts for aircraft engines in Évora, Portugal. The European Investment Bank has provided the Mecachrome group with a €40 million loan aimed at supporting the modernisation and expansion of its production capacities for advanced aero engine and aero structure components. The project will create 300 new jobs in Portugal. Carlos **Moedas**, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: *"The Investment Plan for Europe is once again supporting an innovative project in Portugal with a €40 million loan. Using cutting-edge technology, this new environmentally-friendly factory in Évora will create 300 permanent jobs in Portugal and it will be a leading manufacturer of titanium parts for aircraft engines in Europe. I am proud that Portugal is making full use of the Juncker Plan: it is now ranked second out of 28 in total investment mobilised relative to GDP."* (For more information and the latest Investment Plan results see the [Investment Plan website](#) or contact

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Bulgaria joins the European cooperation on high-performance computing

Bulgaria became today the tenth Member State to sign the [EuroHPC declaration](#) on [high-performance computing](#) (HPC). The initiative aims at joining efforts to make world-class HPC infrastructure available across the EU. Bulgarian Minister for Education and Science, Krasimir Valchev signed the declaration this morning in Sofia, Bulgaria in the presence of Commissioner **Gabriel** in charge of Digital economy and society. Commissioner **Gabriel** said: *“I am very pleased to welcome Bulgaria in this bold European initiative. High-performance computing is pervasive in our daily lives: from personalised medicine to weather forecast, cybersecurity and to cars and planes simulation and design. Access to HPC resources is essential for public and private users. As no Member State has the capacity to develop such computing power quickly and on their own, strong cooperation and support at European level is a must.”* The EuroHPC declaration was originally launched and signed in Rome in March 2017 [during the Digital Day](#) by France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. Belgium signed the declaration [in June 2017](#) and Slovenia [in July 2017](#). Other Member States are expected to join soon, as the top HPC infrastructure has the potential to significantly upraise industry competitiveness and EU’s innovation capacity. Switzerland has also promised to join the European common effort to deploy world-class high-performance computing infrastructure capable of at least 10^{18} calculations per second (so-called exascale computers). More details are available [here](#). (For more information: Nathalie Vandystadt – Tel.: +32 229 67083; Inga Höglund – Tel.: +32 229 50698)

Concentrations: la Commission autorise l’acquisition de FTE par Valeo, à certaines conditions

La Commission a autorisé, en application du règlement de l’UE sur les concentrations, le projet d’acquisition de FTE par Valeo, tous deux fournisseurs d’équipements automobiles. La décision est subordonnée à la cession de l’activité «actionneurs hydrauliques passifs» de Valeo au fournisseur italien de pièces automobiles Raicam. L’enquête de la Commission a confirmé que l’opération envisagée, telle qu’initialement notifiée, soulevait des problèmes de concurrence sur les marchés de la fourniture de (i) modules actionneurs hydrauliques passifs et de composants pour véhicules légers aux équipementiers dans l’Espace économique européen et (ii) de cylindres récepteurs concentriques pour véhicules légers sur le marché des opérateurs indépendants dans le domaine des pièces détachées en Croatie, en Grèce, en Hongrie, en Lettonie, en Slovénie et au Royaume-Uni. Pour dissiper les craintes de la Commission, Valeo a proposé de céder la totalité de ses activités dans le secteur des actionneurs hydrauliques passifs, à l’exception de celles se trouvant en Corée. La Commission a constaté que les mesures correctives proposées dissipaient ses craintes, étant donné qu’elles garantiraient que le nombre de fournisseurs sur le marché concerné reste le même. Plus d’information est disponible dans un communiqué de presse disponible en [EN](#), [FR](#), [DE](#), [IT](#). (Pour plus d’informations: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

Mergers: Commission approves proposed acquisition of Abertis by Atlantia

The Commission has cleared under the EU Merger Regulation the proposed acquisition of Abertis by Atlantia, both leading companies in toll road and infrastructure management. The Commission examined the impact of the proposed transaction on the markets where the companies' activities overlap, mainly: (i) the management of toll motorway concessions; (ii) the provision of electronic toll services, in which Atlantia's Telepass system is a strong player; and (iii) the provision of equipment and services for intelligent transport systems. Additionally, the investigation looked at the effect of the transaction on a number of related markets, in particular food services on motorway service areas, given that Atlantia's largest shareholder Edizione is also the majority shareholder of food services provider Autogrill. The Commission concluded that the merged entity would continue to face effective competition in the relevant markets. Commissioner Margrethe **Vestager**, in charge of competition policy, said: *"Together, Atlantia and Abertis would be the largest toll motorway operator not only in Europe but also in the world. We can approve the transaction because our analysis under EU merger control found that the European markets for motorway concessions will remain competitive"*. A full press release is available in [EN](#), [DE](#), [FR](#), [ES](#), [IT](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

Mergers: Commission clears joint acquisition of Tata Technologies by Warburg Pincus and Tata Motors

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control of Tata Technologies of India, by Warburg Pincus of the US and Tata Motors of India. Tata Technologies supplies outsourced engineering and product development IT services to the global manufacturing industry. Warburg Pincus is a global private equity firm active in a variety of sectors through its portfolio companies. Tata Motors is active in the automobile industry. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because of the absence of horizontal overlaps or vertical links between the activities of the companies. 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.8607](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Vice-President Timmermans hosts a Citizens' Dialogue in Siracusa, Italy

This afternoon at 17.00-18.30, First Vice-President Frans **Timmermans** will take part in a Citizens' Dialogue in Siracusa, Italy. This is the second Dialogue Mr **Timmermans** has organised in Siracusa, after promising last summer at the end of his previous Dialogue to come back for a follow-up discussion with local citizens. Today's event will be streamed live online [here](#). A short

video with highlights of the First Vice-President's previous Citizens' Dialogues is available [here](#). During his trip to Sicily, the First Vice-President will also visit the Pozzallo Hotspot, and meet with Mr Giancarlo Garozzo, Mayor of Siracusa and other local representatives to discuss the results of citizens' projects, supported by the Commission, on identification of best practices in hospitality and integration of migrants in Campania, Calabria and Sicily. *(For more information: Natasha Bertaud – Tel.: +32 229 67456; Tim McPhie – Tel.: +32 229 58602)*

Journée mondiale de l'alimentation: le Commissaire Vytenis Andriukaitis à Gembloux pour un dialogue citoyen

Le 16 octobre 2017, de 14h30 à 18h30, à l'occasion de la journée mondiale de l'alimentation, le Commissaire Vytenis **Andriukaitis** en charge de la Santé et de la Sécurité alimentaire sera à Gembloux, Belgique. La journée s'achèvera sur le campus de Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech par un [dialogue citoyen](#) où le Commissaire **Andriukaitis** et le Ministre wallon Carlo Di Antonio responsable pour l'Environnement, la Transition écologique, l'Aménagement du territoire, les Travaux publics, la Mobilité, les Transports, le Bien-être animal, et les Zonings échangeront avec le public et répondront à leurs questions sur le thème spécifique "Alimentation ou santé: faut-il choisir?" Le Commissaire répondra également aux questions plus générales sur l'Union Européenne. Le dialogue citoyen sera retransmis en direct [ici](#). *(Pour plus d'informations: Anca Paduraru – Tel.: +32 229 91269; Aikaterini Apostola – Tel.: +32 229 87624)*

Migration and security: Commissioners Avramopoulos and King attend G6 meeting in Sevilla

Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris **Avramopoulos** and Commissioner for the Security Union Julian **King** will participate in the G6 meeting of Ministers of Interior in Sevilla, Spain on Monday together with the Interior Ministers of Spain, France, Italy and Poland and the State Secretary of the German Ministry of Interior. The Minister of Interior of Morocco will also participate in the meeting. Discussions will focus on cooperation in the fight against terrorism and on migration. *(For more information: Natasha Bertaud – Tel.: +32 229 67456; Tove Ernst – Tel.: +32 229 86764; Markus Lammert – Tel.: +32 229 58602)*

[Calendar](#)

The Commissioners' weekly activities

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

CALENDRIER du 16 octobre au 22 octobre 2017

(Susceptible de modifications en cours de semaine)

Déplacements et visites

Lundi 16 octobre 2017

Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), in Luxembourg

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives together with Mr Frans **Timmermans**, Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Mr Andrus **Ansip**, Ms Marianne **Thyssen**, Mr Pierre **Moscovici** and Ms Corina **Crețu**, Mr Edouard Philippe, Prime Minister for France.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** in Bratislava, Slovakia (until 17/10): hosts a [Citizens' dialogue](#) on the Future of Europe at the University of Economy.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** in Washington D.C., the United States (until 17/10): participates in a working dinner with high-level experts and think-tanks on the challenges to the global trade system.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** in South Africa (until 17/10): participates in the EU-Southern African Development Community (EU-SADC) Economic Partnership Agreements Civil Society Forum (EPA CSF); and meets Mr Rob Davies, Minister for Trade and Industry of South Africa.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** in Denarau Island, Nadi, Fiji (until 18/10): participates in the Pre-COP (United Nations Climate Change Conference) Ministerial meeting.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** in Cyprus: meets Mr Nicos Kouyialis, *Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus*; Mr Adamos Adamou, *Acting President of the House of Representatives of Cyprus and Chairman of the House Standing Committee on the Environment*; participates in a joint meeting with the chairmen and members of the House Standing Committees on Environment, on Foreign and European Affairs, and on Agriculture and Natural Resources; visits a *project site on "Restoration and Management of Oroklini Lake"*, a Special Protection Area (SPA); and holds a *Dialogue on "Engaging Nature, People and the Economy"* with various stakeholders, at the EU House in Nicosia.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Gembloux, Belgium: visits the Crealys@science park Gembloux; and holds a [Citizens' dialogue](#).

Mr Dimitris **Avramopoulos** and Mr Julian **King** in Seville, Spain: attend the G6/US/Morocco ministerial meeting.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** in Nimes, France: delivers a keynote speech at the [Opening of the Aerial Firefighting Europe 2017](#).

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Rome, Italy: delivers a speech on the occasion of [World Food Day 2017](#).

Ms Violeta **Bulc** in Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: delivers a keynote speech at the [Business Leaders of South-East Europe Summit100](#) .

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Budapest, Hungary, delivers a speech on cultural heritage and tourism and participates in a panel discussion on Europe's future innovation strategy at the [INNOVEIT forum](#); meets graduates of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT); and participates in the EIT Awards Ceremony handing over one of the EIT Awards.

Ms Corina **Crețu** receives a group of students of the Lauder-Reut high school, Romania.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Edinburgh, Scotland (until 17/10): delivers a MacCormick European Lecture on "The Future of EU Research and Innovation" at the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Mardi 17 octobre 2017

General Affairs Council (Art. 50), in Luxembourg

Competitiveness Council (COMPET), in Luxembourg

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, for a working lunch.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** in Magdeburg, Germany: receives the Emperor Otto Prize awarded by the City of Magdeburg.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** in Luxembourg: attends the General Affairs Council and working lunch.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** receives a delegation of members of the US Congress.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** in Bratislava, Slovakia: meets Mr Juraj Stern, Rector of the Pan European University, and exchanges views with students.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** meets representatives of Eurospace trade association, along with Members of the European Parliament, at the European Parliament, in Brussels.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** in Paris, France: delivers a keynote address at the opening session of the [European Securities and Markets Authority \(ESMA\) Conference 2017](#); meets Mr Bruno Le Maire, Minister for Economy and Finance of France; and Mr Alexis Kohler, Secretary General of the Élysée.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** in Washington D.C., the United States: meets Mr Wilbur

Ross, Secretary of Commerce; Mr Gary Cohn, Director of the National Economic Council; Mr John Cornyn, Senator; and delivers keynote address at an [event](#) of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Atlantic Council.

Mr Johannes **Hahn** in Minsk, Belarus: on official visit.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** in South Africa: meets Mr Adam Habib, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of the Witwatersrand; and delivers a lecture on: "Global Trade: Path to Shared Prosperity", at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** in Denarau Island, Nadi, Fiji: participates in the Pre-COP (United Nations Climate Change Conference) Ministerial meeting.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Tallinn, Estonia: delivers a speech at the [high-level conference "Health in the Digital Society. Digital Society for Health"](#).

M. Pierre **Moscovici** à Paris, France: prononce un discours sur le future de l'euro à la [Bergedorfer Roundtable](#), organisé par la Fondation Körber.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** in Ankara, Turkey: participates in the "1 Year 1 Million" event to mark the milestone of reaching 1 million beneficiaries of the EU-funded Emergency Social Safety Net programme in Turkey.

Mr Phil **Hogan** receives Mr Joachim Rukwied, President of COPA, European Farmers.

Mr Phil **Hogan** receives Mr François Bonneau, President of Centre-Val de Loire Region of France; Mr Renaud Muselier, President of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region; Mr Jean-Pierre Raynaud, Vice-President of Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region; Ms Hélène Aussignac, Adviser for Agriculture, Agri-food, Fisheries and Forestry at Regions of France; and Mr Pascal Gruselle, Adviser for European Affairs, Regional Planning and Overseas at Regions of France.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** delivers a keynote speech at the [CEO forum of Airlines for Europe](#) (A4E), in Brussels.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** receives a delegation of members of the US Congress.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** receives Mr Hans Wolf von Koeller, Head of Energy Policy at Steag GmbH; and Mr Adam Leszkiewicz, representative of Steag Energo Mineral Poland.

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives Mr Ted Deutsch, Ms Suzan DelBene, Ms Brenda Lawrence and Ms Yvette Clarke, Members of the US House of Representatives, to discuss transatlantic digital policy issues.

Ms Věra **Jourová** delivers a keynote speech at the 10th anniversary celebration of the hotline for missing children and child helpline organised by Missing Children Europe and Child Helpline International, in Brussels.

Ms Věra **Jourová** delivers a keynote speech at the High-Level Expert meeting on the European Arrest Warrant, in Brussels.

Ms Corina **Crețu** delivers a keynote speech at the "[Future of the Cohesion Policy post-2020: The role of local administrations in Central and Eastern European countries in maximizing the contribution of European funds](#)" conference, in Brussels.

Ms Corina **Crețu** receives Mr Renaud Muselier, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Edinburgh, Scotland: meets Mr Mark Walport, Chief Executive Designate of UK Research and Innovation; participates in a Scottish Government innovator roundtable hosted by Mr Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy in the Scottish Parliament; visits the Data Lab Innovation Centre, and Robotarium at Heriot Watt University; and participates in a working lunch with young innovators, hosted by Mr Richard Williams, Principal, and Mr Julian Jones, Vice-Principal of the Heriot Watt University.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** delivers a keynote speech at the "Working Smart. Drawing the future of a flexible and efficient work" conference, at the European Parliament, in Brussels.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** attends the opening of the annual [CoderDojo event](#) on programming languages, at the European Parliament, in Brussels.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** receives Mr Thomas Schmidt, State Minister for Environment and Agriculture of Saxony, Germany.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** attends the opening ceremony of the exhibition "Generation Code: Born at the Library" in the framework of [EU Code Week](#) , in Brussels.

Mercredi 18 octobre 2017

College meeting

Tripartite Social Summit, in Brussels

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** delivers a speech at the Tripartite Social Summit.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary; Mr Robert Fico, Prime Minister of Slovakia; Mr Bohuslav Sobotka, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic; and Ms Beata Szydło, Prime Minister of Poland, for a working dinner of the Visegrad Group.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** attends the Plenary Session of the European Economic Social Committee on the Commission Work Programme, in Brussels.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** participates in a panel discussion on "Progressive Leaders paving the Way", organised by S&D, in Brussels.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** delivers closing remarks at the [5th BEREC Stakeholder Forum](#)

(Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications), in Brussels

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič**, Ms Violeta **Bulc** and Ms Mariya **Gabriel** deliver keynote speeches at the [3rd EU Aeronautics Conference](#), at the European Parliament, in Brussels.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** meets Mr Alessandro Profumo, CEO of global high-tech company Leonardo S.p.A., in Brussels.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** meets representatives of the European Round Table of Industrialists (ERT), in Brussels.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** receives representatives of the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) project.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Alessandro Profumo, CEO of global high-tech company, Leonardo S.p.A.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Warren East, CEO of Rolls-Royce Holdings PLC.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives Mr Muhammad Pervaiz Malik, Federal Minister for Commerce and Textile of Pakistan.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** participates in a roundtable on “Animal Welfare and the Future of Ethical Trade”, in Brussels.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives Mr Tom Enders, CEO of Airbus Group.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** in Denarau Island, Nadi, Fiji (until 18/10): participates in the Pre-COP (United Nations Climate Change Conference) Ministerial meeting.

Mr Karmenu **Vella**, Ms Violeta **Bulc**, Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** and Ms Mariya **Gabriel** participate and deliver interventions at the High Level Group on Competitiveness and Sustainable Growth of the Automotive Industry in the EU (GEAR 2030), in Brussels.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives Mr Eoghan Murphy, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government of Ireland.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives Mr Kyriakos Mitsotakis, leader of the New Democracy party of Greece.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** participates in the European Association for Food Safety SAFE 2017 workshop, in Brussels.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** receives representatives of European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS).

Mr Dimitris **Avramopoulos** receives Mr Edward Nalbandian, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** attends the Tripartite Social Summit, in Brussels.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** reçoit M. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Président de Nea Dimokratia parti en Grece.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** prononce un discours à la conférence *“Reinventing Convergence: Towards Resilient Economic Structures”* organisé par la Commission Européenne, à Bruxelles.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** receives Mr Yannis Vardakastanis, President of the European Disability Forum.

Mr Phil **Hogan** meets Mr Petteri Orpo, Minister for Finance of Finland, in Brussels.

Ms Věra **Jourová** delivers a keynote speech at the Brussels POLITICO’s Playbook Breakfast event, in Brussels.

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives representatives of Nomad Foods.

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives Mr Adrian Delia, Leader of the Partit Nazzjonalista of Malta.

Ms Corina **Crețu** in Budapest, Hungary: delivers a keynote speech at the 6th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

Mr Julian **King** attends the memorial for victims of terrorist attacks, in Brussels.

Mr Julian **King** receives Mr Adrian Delia, Leader of the Partit Nazzjonalista of Malta.

Mr Julian **King** delivers a speech at the “Building Alliances – Preventing Terror” conference organised by the Counter Extremism Project (CEP), in Brussels.

Mr Julian **King** meets Mr Marcel Huber, Head of the Bavarian State Chancellery and State Minister for Federal Affairs and Special Affairs, in Brussels.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** receives Mr Warren East, CEO of Rolls-Royce Holdings PLC.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** attends the opening and delivers the keynote speech at the EY Entrepreneurial Winning Women Europe Class of 2017, in Brussels.

Jeudi 19 octobre 2017

19-20/10 European Council, in Brussels

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Pedro Sánchez, leader of the Spanish Socialist Workers’ Party (PSOE).

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Māris Kučinskis, Prime Minister of Latvia.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Kyriakos Mitsotakis, leader of the New Democracy party of Greece.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** participates in the EPP Summit ahead of the European Council.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Paolo Gentiloni, Prime Minister of Italy.

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

Mr Frans **Timmermans** participates in a panel discussion on “Defending and Strengthening Democracy, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights in Europe, organised by S&D group, in Brussels.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** receives Ms Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** receives Heads of European Postal Operators.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** receives teachers from Russian schools in Tallinn.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** receives a delegation of Members of US House of Representatives, led by Mr Jeb Hensarling, Chairman of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** delivers a keynote speech at the “*Reinventing Convergence: Towards Resilient Economic Structures*” conference, organised by the European Commission, in Brussels.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** participates in the Summit of the European People’s Party (EPP), in Brussels.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Christian Sewing, President, Co-Head of Private and Commercial Bank at Deutsche Bank; and Mr Michael Reuther, Member of Board of Managing Directors at Commerzbank.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** in Gothenburg, Sweden: delivers a lecture on “Halfway through the mandate – achievements and visions for the future of the EU”, organised by the student organisation “*Brännpunkt Europa*” at the University of Gothenburg; and participates in the annual “Prins Bertils Seminar” at the School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg.

Mr Neven **Mimica** receives Mr Albert Muchanga, African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry.

Mr Neven **Mimica** receives Mr Seetanah Lutchmeenaraidoo, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** speaks at the General Assembly of Eurometaux, the European non-ferrous metals association, in Brussels.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives Ms Adriana-Doina Pană, Minister for Waters and Forests of Romania.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives Mr Gheorghe Şimon, Minister for Economy of Romania.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Bucharest, Romania: meets Mr Mihai Tudose, Prime Minister of Romania; Mr Florian Bodog, Minister for Health of Romania; Mr Petre Daea, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania; participates in a meeting with the Health and European Affairs Committees from the Chamber of Deputies and Senate; holds a [Citizens' dialogue](#) on the Future of Europe together with Mr Victor Negrescu, Minister-delegate for European Affairs; delivers a speech at the "Health Forum – the financing of the healthcare system in 2018"; meets Mr Vlad Voiculescu, former Minister for Health; and Mr Vlad Mixich, former interim Vice-President of the Romanian National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices.

Mr Dimitris **Avramopoulos** and Mr Julian **King** in Ischia, Italy (until 20/10): attend the G7 Interior Ministers' meeting on the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** delivers a keynote speech at the high-level Conference "[Power from Statistics](#)", in Brussels.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** delivers a keynote speech at a Belgian event on European Disability Card for access of people with disabilities to culture, in Brussels.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** receives Mr Jevgeni Ossinovski, Minister for Health and Labour of Estonia.

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Serock, Poland: delivers a speech at the [15th Dairy Cooperatives Forum](#) (DCF).

Ms Violeta **Bulc** in Dublin, Ireland: meets with Mr Shane Ross, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport of Ireland; and addresses the Transport Committee of the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** in Tallinn, Estonia: delivers a keynote speech at [European Tourism Forum 2017](#).

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives a delegation of Members of US House of Representatives, led by Mr Jeb Hensarling, Chairman of the Financial Services Committee.

Ms Věra **Jourová** delivers a keynote speech at the European Brands Association's Board meeting, in Brussels.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Budapest, Hungary; delivers a keynote address at the [Danube Forum](#); at the 2nd European [Pro Bono Summit](#) organised by 'Volunteering in Hungary' (ÖKA); and at the annual high-level Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research (CESAER).

Mr Carlos **Moedas** receives Mr Garik Israelian, Director of STARMUS Festival.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** delivers a keynote speech by video-conference to the [VII European Congress of SMEs](#) in Katowice, Poland.

Vendredi 20 octobre 2017

European Council, in Brussels

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

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** in Oviedo, Spain: together with Mr Antonio Tajani, President of European Parliament and Mr Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, accepts the Princess of Asturias Award of Concord on behalf of the European Union; and attends a reception in the presence of the King and Queen of Spain.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** receives Ms Kang Kyung-wha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** receives Mr Jan Egeland, Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** in Luxembourg: meets Mr Etienne Schneider, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Economy; Mr Werner Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank (EIB); Mr Ville Itälä, Member of the European Court of Auditors (ECA); and delivers keynote address at an event organised by the Permanent Representation of Finland to the European Union.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives Mr Albert Muchanga, African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives Mr Mustapa Mohamed, Minister for International Trade and Industry of Malaysia.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives Ms Kamina Johnson-Smith, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica.

Mr Neven **Mimica** holds a speech at the high-level roundtable ["Putting Partnership into Practice: making the best of the toolbox to promote investment in ACP countries, to connect to value chains and industrialise"](#), in Brussels.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** meets Mr Pierre Olivier Drège, President of the European Landowners' Organisation (ELO); Mr Thierry de l'Escaille, Secretary General of ELO; Mr Konstantin Kostopoulos, Adviser at ELO for Wildlife-Estate and Natura 2000; and Mr Allan Buckwell, Emeritus Professor and Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), in Brussels.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives Mr Eneko Aierbe, Fisheries campaigner for *Ecologistas en Acción* NGO.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Bucharest, Romania: participates in the European Livestock and Meat Trades Union 2017 Annual General Meeting.

Mr Dimitris **Avramopoulos** and Mr Julian **King** in Ischia, Italy (until 20/10): attend the G7 Interior Ministers' meeting on the fight against terrorism and

violent extremism.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** receives Ms Najat Rochdi, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** in Katowice, Poland: participates in the [VII European Congress of SMEs](#).

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Lisbon, Portugal: delivers a keynote speech at a Radio and Television of Portugal (RTP) conference on “Future of the Public Media Service in the EU”.

Samedi 21 octobre 2017

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Cernobbio, Italy: delivers a speech at the [Coldiretti International Forum](#) on Agriculture and Food.

Prévisions du mois d'octobre:

23/10 Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO), in Luxembourg.

23-26/10 European Parliament plenary session, in Strasbourg.

24/10 Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (TTE), in Luxembourg.

Prévisions du mois de novembre:

06/11 Eurogroup, in Brussels.

06-07/11 Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH), in Brussels.

07/11 Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN), in Brussels.

09/11 Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA), in Brussels.

10/11 Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), in Brussels.

13-14/11 Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), in Brussels.

13-16/11 European Parliament plenary session, in Strasbourg.

15/11 General Affairs Council (GAC), in Brussels.

17/11 Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN), in Brussels.

17/11 Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth, in Gothenburg.

20/11 General Affairs Council (GAC), in Brussels.

20-21/11 Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council (EYCS), in Brussels.

24/11 Eastern Partnership summit, in Brussels.

27/11 Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), in Brussels.

29-30/11 European Parliament plenary session, in Brussels.

30/11 – 01/12 Competitiveness Council (COMPET), in Brussels.

Prévisions du mois de décembre:

30/11 – 01/12 Competitiveness Council (COMPET), in Brussels.

04/12 Eurogroup, in Brussels.

04-05/12 Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (TTE), in Brussels.

05/12 Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN), in Brussels.

07-08/12 Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA), in Brussels.

07-08/12 Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO), in Brussels.

11/12 Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), in Brussels.

11-12/12 Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH), in Brussels.

11-14/12 European Parliament plenary session, in Strasbourg.

12/12 General Affairs Council (GAC), in Brussels.

12/12 General Affairs Council (Art. 50), in Brussels

14-15/12 European Council, in Brussels.

18/12 Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (TTE), in Brussels.

19/12 Environment Council (ENVI), in Brussels.

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Employment: Commission report shows increased wage growth and swifter transitions from unemployment to employment

This year's edition confirms the positive labour market trends that have been witnessed in the EU. EU employment has surpassed pre-crisis levels with more than 235 million people at work. Unemployment which now stands at 7.6% is also approaching levels prior to the recession. In addition, the report shows that it has become easier for unemployed people to find a job. On the other hand, more flexible working arrangements have brought advantages to both firms and individuals, but have led in some cases to a divide between workers holding different types of contracts, with people in temporary employment and self-employment being less well protected.

Marianne **Thyssen**, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, commented: *"More and more people in Europe are able to find a job and we witness the highest employment level ever recorded. Europe is reaping the benefits of targeted policy reforms. At the same time we need to address further challenges. We must ensure fair working conditions and protection for all workers, independent of their employment status. On the basis of the European Pillar of Social Rights, which we launched on 26 April, we are working to modernise the rules on employment contracts and social protection to achieve better working and living conditions across the EU."*

The 2017 Labour Market and Wage Development Report also shows that in 2016, wages in the euro area rose by 1.2% and they increased in almost all Member States. Member States with comparatively low wage levels (such as the Baltics, Hungary and Romania) recorded the highest increases. This means wages are converging across Europe. However, in many countries, the growth rate of wages is still lower than expected based on the recent falls in unemployment. In addition, in almost all Member States, wages of temporary workers are lower than those of permanent workers, especially in Member States where the share of temporary employment is higher.

Delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Commission presented a legislative proposal to improve work-life balance of working parents and carers, and launched [social partner consultations to modernise the rules on labour contracts](#) and on [access to social protection for all](#). These initiatives could – once adopted – provide answers to the challenges highlighted in this year's Labour Market and Wage Developments in Europe report, such as labour market segmentation and lack of protection of workers in non-standard forms of employment.

Background

The [Labour Market and Wage Developments in Europe report](#) analyses the labour market from a macroeconomic perspective. It provides an analysis of recent employment and wage developments, looking at the euro area and the EU as a whole in comparison with its global trading partners. Each edition includes a thematic chapter that deepens the macro-economic analysis of a relevant issue. Previous editions of the report can be found [here](#).

The proposal for a [European Pillar of Social Rights](#), adopted by the Commission on 26 April 2017, sets out 20 key principles and rights to support fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems. In his [2017 State of the Union address](#), President Juncker confirmed the Commission's commitment to move forward with the Pillar as an essential means to assert European values and create a deeper and fairer EU: *"If we want to avoid social fragmentation and social dumping in Europe, then Member States should agree on the European Pillar of Social Rights as soon as possible and at the latest at the Gothenburg summit in November."* The Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth will take place in Gothenburg, Sweden, on 17 November 2017. More information on the Summit can be found [here](#).

For more information

Follow Marianne Thyssen on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

[New aeronautic manufacturing plant in Évora financed by the EIB under the Investment Plan for Europe](#)



Mecachrome Usine du Futur & Innovation

New aeronautic manufacturing plant in Évora financed by the EIB under the Investment Plan for Europe

11/10/2017

Mecachrome Aeronautica

[Spain]

Mecachrome Aeronáutica has inaugurated today in Évora (Portugal) its new plant for manufacturing titanium parts for aircraft engines. The European Investment Bank (EIB) has financed the investments by the Mecachrome group with a EUR 40 million loan aimed at supporting the modernisation and

expansion of its production capacities for advanced aero engine and aerostructure components at its factories in France and Portugal. Part of the project scope is in particular focused on the new factory inaugurated today in Portugal. The operation is guaranteed by the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the core of the Investment Plan for Europe, the Juncker Plan.

The EIB financial support for this project will not only contribute to innovation but also foster economic growth in an EU cohesion region by creating more than 300 new permanent jobs in Portugal. The investments will also help to disseminate knowledge in advance manufacturing technology: in the future, Mecachrome, in partnership with IEF, will provide workers with the appropriate skills to work with new hard metal machining.

About the impact of this project, the EIB Vice-President overseeing the operations of the EU bank in Portugal, **Román Escolano**, stressed: "This new aeronautical plant inaugurated in Évora is a fantastic example of our priorities in Portugal: supporting the creation of jobs by financing sustainable and innovative investments. By financing the capacity expansion of Mecachrome with a new factory in Portugal, the EIB is enhancing the competitiveness of the EU's technological industry, while fostering economic growth in a convergence region, which will benefit from new highly skilled jobs".

Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: "The Investment Plan for Europe is supporting once again an innovative project in Portugal with a EUR 40 million loan. Using cutting-edge technology, this new environmentally-friendly factory in Évora will create 300 permanent jobs in Portugal and will be a leading manufacturer of titanium parts for aircraft engines in Europe. I am proud that Portugal is making full use of the Juncker Plan: it is now ranked second out of 28 in total investment mobilised relative to GDP."

This new Mecachrome facility is the first site of the company equipped with the revolutionary new machining technology called cryogenic that it is specialised in hard metal machining.

The new plant is a green-field and paper-free factory with additional environmental benefits: the new aircraft titanium parts produced in the new Portuguese factory will facilitate the construction of more efficient aero-engines and aerostructures, helping to reduce the weight of the aircraft and therefore fuel consumption.

Thanks to the support of the Juncker Plan, the EIB is able to provide Mecachrome with the required advantageous financing to assure the implementation of its innovation strategy. Investment in innovation, research and development is one of the pillars of the Investment Plan for Europe.

2017 “a turning point for Europe”, says President of EU

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