

EIB grants loan of EUR 50m to Raiffeisenlandesbank Niederösterreich-Wien

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is granting Raiffeisenlandesbank Niederösterreich-Wien AG (RLB NÖ-Wien) a global loan of up to EUR 50 million. At least 70 percent of the loan will be provided to SMEs and Mid-Caps, whilst the remainder will be dedicated to priority sector infrastructure investments in areas of environmental protection, knowledge economy, energy, health and education. Under the agreement, RLB NÖ-Wien undertakes to match EIB's EUR 50 million loan with the same amount. The transaction is the third global loan with RLB NÖ-Wien in the past 10 years in addition to numerous bank intermediated investment loans.

EIB Vice-President Andrew McDowell, responsible for operations in Austria, stressed that "SMEs and Mid-Caps are important drivers of growth, employment and innovation in Austria as well as in Europe as a whole. They represent well over 90% of businesses and employ two thirds of the active working population. Supporting long-term financing on very favorable terms to SMEs and Mid-Caps is a top priority for the EU bank." And the Vice President added: "We are delighted to sign this new transaction with Raiffeisenlandesbank Niederösterreich-Wien. This demonstrates our very successful relationship with Raiffeisen in Austria."

Reinhard Karl, Board Member of Raiffeisenlandesbank Niederösterreich-Wien in charge of Corporate Banking, emphasised: *"As a regional bank, we strive to meet our customers' financing needs in a quick, flexible and reliable manner. For us, it's essential to focus on contributing to the success of small and medium-sized firms and Mid-Caps in our region. This EIB global loan will enable us to continue providing professional support for investment projects in Eastern Austria."*

Boosting the economy in Lower Austria and the City of Vienna

RLB NÖ-Wien has been a longstanding partner of EIB's. Joint efforts particularly in large scale infrastructure projects mainly in the field of Renewable Energy became joint success stories – from project proposal to disbursement. 215 smaller projects including innovative entrepreneurs, start-up investments, infrastructural investments and renewable energy projects both in Vienna and all over Lower Austria have benefited so far from EIB Global Loans provided by RLB NÖ-Wien. These EIB-funds are being used on dedicated loans focusing on SMEs' specific needs ("Grätzelmillion mit EIB-Vorteil/neighborhood loan with EIB-benefit") in Vienna and for long term financings for larger companies and municipalities in Lower Austria. EIB refinancing is an important part of RLB NÖ-Wien's funding strategy and will remain a valuable source of long-term refinancing.

August 2017 – Euro area unemployment at 9.1% – EU28 at 7.6%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 9.1% in August 2017, stable compared to July 2017 and down from 9.9% in August 2016. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since February 2009. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 7.6% in August 2017, down from 7.7% in July 2017 and from 8.5% in August 2016. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since November 2008. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

[Full text available on EUROSTAT website](#)

European Commission publishes assessment of Member State offers to host European Banking Authority and European Medicines Agency after Brexit – Questions and Answers

The decision to relocate the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the European Banking Authority (EBA) is for the governments of the 27 Member States to take. According to the procedure agreed by the Member States in the European Council on 22 June 2017, the Commission was requested to assess the submitted offers against the agreed criteria. The Commission's assessment constitutes a factual and objective contribution that the EU27 Member States can take into account when they make their decision on the new locations of the two agencies.

What documents have you published?

The Commission has published:

1. Individual assessment summaries for each of the 27 offers;
2. A general assessment summary providing an overview of all offers, allowing for comparisons to be made more easily;
3. 27 assessment grids providing more detailed information on specific issues.

Why has the Commission not ranked the offers or provided a shortlist of the best offers?

The Commission has acted in accordance with the decision of the 27 EU Member States on 22 June 2017 which does not ask the Commission to rank the offers or to make a shortlist of offers.

Has the Commission consulted the two agencies?

Yes – as foreseen in the EU27 Member States' decision of 22 June 2017. When examining the offers, the Commission asked the two agencies to provide technical comments on the technical requirements concerning the proposed buildings and on the proposed relocation plans. The two agencies have provided their technical comments and with the agencies' agreement, these have been published on the Commission's website today.

Some of the documents are not published in full. Why?

Some of the Member States who have submitted offers indicated that their offer contained information which they considered to be confidential. This information mainly concerns business secrets about the proposed buildings as well as details on the offered conditions. According to the requests of the Member States concerned, this information has been left out of the published documents.

Why do the two agencies have to be relocated?

European Union agencies must be based in the European Union. As the United Kingdom has notified the European Council under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union of its intention to leave the Union, it is necessary to move the two United Kingdom-based Agencies to other locations within the Union's territory. Agencies cannot be located outside the territory to which their competences apply. The United Kingdom will have no say when it comes to the location of the EU Agencies.

What do the EBA and EMA do?

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) plays an essential role in protecting human and animal health in the EU, by evaluating and supervising human and veterinary medicinal products in the Single Market. While it does not conduct research itself, it evaluates new medicines before they are authorised in the European Union and monitors their safety. It also stimulates research and innovation by giving scientific advice and guidance to developers of medicines.

The European Banking Authority (EBA) aims to ensure effective and consistent prudential regulation and supervision across the European banking sector. Its overall objectives are to maintain financial stability in the EU and to safeguard the integrity, efficiency and orderly functioning of the banking sector. The main task of the EBA is to contribute to the creation of the European Single Rulebook in banking, whose objective is to provide a single set of harmonised prudential rules for financial institutions throughout the EU.

What are the next steps?

On the basis of the Commission's assessment, the Council will have a political discussion at the General Affairs Council (Article 50 format) in October 2017. A final decision will be taken at the General Affairs Council (Article 50 format) in November 2017.

European Commission publishes assessment of offers to host European Banking Authority and European Medicines Agency, currently located in the United Kingdom

The European Commission has today published its assessment of the 27 offers received by Member States to host the European Banking Authority (EBA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA), which are currently located in the United Kingdom.

The Commission, under the responsibility of its Secretary-General, assessed all offers objectively, on the basis of the criteria set out by President **Jean-Claude Juncker** and President Donald Tusk and endorsed by the Heads of State or Government of the EU27 at the [European Council \(Article 50 format\) on 22 June 2017](#). The [assessment](#) is fully based on the information sent by the Member States. It respects the Member States' decision that the criteria should be unweighted and does not provide a ranking or shortlist of any kind. The Agencies have also been consulted in the process.

Next Steps: On the basis of the Commission's assessment, the Council will have a political discussion at the General Affairs Council (Article 50 format) in October 2017. In order to allow for a smooth and timely relocation of the two agencies, a final decision will be taken at the General Affairs Council (Article 50 format) in November 2017.

Background

The decision to relocate the EMA and the EBA – both of which are currently situated in London – is for the governments of the 27 Member States to take. Their relocation is a direct consequence of the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union, as notified to the European Council on 29 March 2017. It does not form part of the Brexit negotiations, but is to be discussed exclusively between the 27 EU Member States. The Commission has repeatedly called for a quick decision on the transfer. The EMA and the EBA

are two key regulatory agencies for the EU's Single Market, and are essential for the authorisation of medicines and bank regulation. They must continue to function smoothly and without disruption beyond March 2019.

For More Information

[Memo](#)

[Commission assessment](#)

[Applications to host the EMA and EBA](#)

[Decision on the procedure for relocation of EU agencies currently located in the UK \(including criteria\)](#)

Market makers and authorised primary dealers who are using the exemption under the SSR – XLS

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