



Daily news | 30 June 2023 | Brussels

## Daily News 30 / 06 / 2023

### **EU Cohesion Policy: inauguration of one of the longest underwater tunnels in Europe**

Today, the **longest EU-funded underwater tunnel in Europe** is officially opened in Poland. The tunnel will connect the islands of Usedom and Wolin, and the city centre of Świnoujście with the rest of the country. It will allow seamless transportation for locals and visitors and serve as a catalyst for the region's economic development.

The project, approved in June 2018, received **€162.3 million of cohesion policy funding** (from the 2014-2020 programming period), out of a total investment of €191.5 million.

For Świnoujście's inhabitants, especially those working in the capital of the West Pomerania region, Szczecin, daily commuting by ferry was quite long and challenging. The tunnel changes this dramatically as **the crossing will now only take 2-3 minutes**. The tunnel is 1,440 meters long and will link the two parts of the city of Świnoujście, located on Uznam and Wolin islands. It will also facilitate transport between Poland and Germany, create new prospects for investments and **job creation** in the region. By improving connectivity, the tunnel will strengthen the links between Świnoujście and neighbouring cities, thereby fostering regional cooperation and exchange.

During the programming period 2014-2020, Poland benefited from over €78.8 billion in EU Cohesion Policy support, of

which €28.2 billion were dedicated to the operational programme 'Infrastructure and the Environment'.

A press release is available [online](#).

(For more information: Stefan De Keersmaecker – Tel.: +32 2 298 46 80; Veronica Favalli – Tel.: +32 2 298 72 69)

**Mission de l'UE « Restore our Ocean and Waters » : 106 millions d'euros en faveur de 18 nouveaux projets de protection, de conservation, de dépollution et d'innovation**

La Commission a annoncé aujourd'hui les noms des **18 nouveaux projets** qui recevront plus de **106 millions** d'euros afin de contribuer à la [mission de l'UE « Restore our Ocean and Waters »](#) (« Restaurez nos océans et nos eaux »). Ces projets rassemblent plus de **370 bénéficiaires de 36 pays**, dont des petites et moyennes entreprises, des centres de recherche, des autorités locales, des écoles et des entreprises. Ils contribueront de manière déterminante **au succès de la neutralité climatique et de la restauration de la nature** en protégeant et en reconstituant la biodiversité dans les eaux, en réduisant la pollution, en soutenant une économie bleue durable et en développant [le jumeau numérique européen de l'océan](#).

Tous les États membres de l'UE sont impliqués dans les projets, avec des actions s'étendant de la mer Baltique et de la mer du Nord à l'Atlantique, en passant par le Danube et la mer Méditerranée.

Ces projets apporteront un éventail diversifié d'avantages en faveur des océans et des eaux, tels que des solutions de protection et de restauration des habitats côtiers et marins dégradés, la prévention et l'élimination des déchets marins et des plastiques, l'intégration des données de surveillance de la biodiversité dans le jumeau numérique de l'océan, et bien d'autres encore.

De plus amples détails sur les projets, y compris son budget et ses bénéficiaires, sont disponibles dans la [liste des projets](#) et dans notre [communiqué de presse](#).

(Pour plus d'informations : Adalbert Jahnz – Tél.: +32 2 295 31 56; Daniela Stoycheva – Tél.: +32 2 295 36 64)

### **EU and Republic of Korea Digital Partnership: strengthening our economic resilience**

Today, the European Union and the Republic of Korea held the first Digital Partnership council in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The council was co-chaired by Commissioner for the Internal Market, Thierry **Breton**, and by Korean Minister for Science and ICT, Dr Lee Jong-Ho.

On the occasion of the ministerial meeting, **the EU and the Republic of Korea agreed on key outcomes to advance cooperation for an inclusive and resilient digital transformation**. Both partners agreed to work on semiconductors, High Performance Computing (HPC) and Quantum technology, 5G and beyond, platform economy, artificial intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity.

The EU and the Republic of Korea committed to cooperate on emerging technologies that were recently put forward in the [EU economic security strategy](#).

Thierry **Breton**, Commissioner for Internal Market, said: *“Today marks a significant milestone in fortifying our cooperation with the Republic of Korea, a strategic like-minded partner. By joining forces, we are paving the way for remarkable progress in key Digital and industrial domains, encompassing semiconductors, high-performance computing, 6G, quantum and AI. This joint effort is set to empower our citizens and unlock tremendous prospects for our economies.”*

More information is available in this [press release](#).

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### **Décennie numérique 2030 : La Commission adopte des indicateurs pour suivre la transformation numérique de**

## **L'Europe et donne des orientations aux États membres**

La Commission a adopté aujourd'hui les [Indicateurs Clés de Performance \(ICP\)](#), permettant de mesurer les progrès accomplis dans la réalisation des objectifs de la [Décennie numérique 2030](#) et a publié des [orientations sur la manière dont les États Membres devraient structurer leurs feuilles de route nationales](#) pour atteindre les objectifs numériques.

Chaque indicateur mesurera les progrès accomplis par l'UE dans la réalisation des objectifs en matière d'infrastructures numériques, de compétences, d'entreprises et de services publics. La Commission présentera les progrès accomplis dans le premier rapport sur l'état de la Décennie Numérique, qui devrait être publié après l'été. En outre, les États Membres devraient utiliser les indicateurs pour définir leurs trajectoires nationales afin de poursuivre les objectifs au niveau national.

Margrethe **Vestager**, Vice-Présidente Exécutive chargée d'une Europe adaptée à l'ère numérique, a déclaré : « *Avec la Décennie numérique 2030, nous avons fixé le cap de la transformation numérique de l'Europe avec les États Membres. Il est essentiel de suivre les progrès accomplis pour rester sur la bonne voie et réaliser collectivement l'avenir numérique envisagé.* »

Thierry **Breton**, Commissaire au marché Intérieur, a déclaré : « *La Décennie numérique 2030 est notre plan industriel pour la transformation numérique de l'Europe, avec des objectifs spécifiques en matière d'infrastructures numériques, de compétences, d'entreprises et de services publics. Nous devons maintenant traduire ce plan en trajectoires concrètes pour atteindre les objectifs. Grâce aux indicateurs clés de performance que nous définissons aujourd'hui, nous serons en mesure de mesurer notre progression sur ces trajectoires et de nous assurer que nous sommes à la hauteur de nos ambitions. En travaillant ensemble, nous serons en mesure d'exploiter pleinement les possibilités offertes par les technologies numériques dans notre vie quotidienne et dans nos activités professionnelles d'ici à 2030.* »

Les États Membres doivent adopter leurs feuilles de route nationales d'ici le 9 octobre. Ils y exposeront leurs trajectoires nationales et les mesures politiques qu'ils entendent prendre pour contribuer à l'effort collectif de l'UE d'ici à 2030. De plus amples informations sur les [ICP](#) et sur les [orientations](#) sont disponibles en ligne.

*(Pour plus d'informations: Johannes Bahrke – Tél.: +32 2 295 86 15; Marietta Grammenou – Tél.: +32 2 298 35 83)*

### **Digital Europe Programme opens to candidate countries Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, and Serbia to access calls for funding**

Today, the Commission signed association agreements for the [Digital Europe Programme](#) with Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania and Serbia, on the margins of the [Regulatory Dialogue with the Western Balkans](#). Following the signatures, and upon the completion of the related ratification processes, the association agreements will enter into force. Businesses, public administrations and other eligible organisations in these neighbouring countries will be able to access the calls of the Digital Europe Programme, which has an overall budget of €7.5 billion in the 2021-2027 period.

In particular, participants from these four countries will be able to take part in projects that deploy digital technologies across the EU in specific areas such as artificial intelligence, and advanced digital skills. They will also be able to set up Digital Innovation Hubs in their own regions.

**This will bring them closer to the EU economy and society, benefit their technology capabilities and support digitalisation overall, notably of small and medium-sized businesses.**

The Digital Europe Programme's funds will complement funding available in [Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia](#), as well as [Albania](#), through other EU programmes such as Horizon Europe. The objectives and specific topic areas that are currently eligible for funding are detailed in [the Work Programmes](#).

More information is available on the link on the [Digital Europe Programme](#) and [how to apply for funding](#).

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**Global Gateway: EU funded study paves way for major investment into sustainable transport connections between EU and Central Asia**

A study conducted by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and financed by the Commission published today proposes the most **sustainable transport connections and investment opportunities** for **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan** to maximise their economic potential by linking up better with each other – and with Europe. The [Study on Sustainable Transport Connections](#) between Europe and Central Asia offers a solid basis for major potential investments in sustainable transport connections between the EU and Central Asia. It is a deliverable of the EU's Global Gateway strategy.

It proposes a comprehensive 360-degree approach in identifying and prioritising **33 hard infrastructure investment needs** and in parallel putting forward seven coordinated actions on **soft connectivity measures** (such as trade facilitation, regulatory measures, or digitalisation). The study **recommends**, among others, setting up a formal corridor management institution, digitalising transport documents, increased interoperability, market liberalisation and co-ordinated tariff setting. These actions can contribute to the sustainability, competitiveness, economic attractiveness, and operational efficiency of transport connections in Central Asia.

More information is available [online](#).

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## **Commission strengthens cooperation on satellite data with Philippine Space Agency to tackle societal challenges**

Today, the Commission and the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) signed a Cooperation Arrangement to strengthen the collaboration in the area of Earth observation. The Arrangement will **facilitate the reciprocal exchange of satellite data** and will encourage its use and application in addressing societal challenges of common interest, ranging from the long-term management of natural resources, monitoring of marine and coastal areas, water resource management, mitigating the impacts on climate, disaster risk reduction, food security, rural development, and public health.

Under this Cooperation Arrangement, the PhilSA intends to set up a data hub to distribute Copernicus Sentinel satellites data and information across the region, as well as to support pilot projects using Copernicus. The Arrangement will also serve as a basis for the implementation of a Copernicus capacity-building programme for the Philippines, funded by the Commission.

This Cooperation Arrangement is **part of the Copernicus global outreach strategy** which aims to promote the take-up of Copernicus data and its services in tackling societal challenges worldwide through Cooperation Arrangements with partner countries. So far, the Commission has signed similar arrangements with administrations in the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, Chile, Colombia, Brazil, Panama, India, the African Union, Serbia, and Ukraine. More information is available [here](#).

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## **Financial services: Commission welcomes political agreement on Review of Markets in Financial Instruments Regulation**

The Commission welcomes the political agreement reached yesterday between the European Parliament and the Council

on the Commission's proposal of 2021 for a review of **the Regulation governing rules about the structure of the markets in financial instruments ('MiFIR Review')**.

The review creates a mandatory framework for the so-called 'consolidated tape provider (CTP)'. The consolidated tape will bring together the prices and volumes of financial instruments, such as shares and bonds, from hundreds of execution venues across all Member States into a single stream of information, equally accessible for everybody.

The review contains also a prohibition of the practice of 'payment for order flow' (PFOF) to increase the quality of execution and the amount of retail orders being performed on transparent and competitive public markets.

In addition, the MiFIR review provides for improved rules on transparency of 'non-equity instruments' such as bonds and derivatives as well as a set of rules aimed at making robust markets for commodity derivatives.

Overall, the new rules increase the global competitiveness, better integrate EU capital markets and are a significant step towards a true Capital Markets Union.

Mairead **McGuinness**, Commissioner for Financial Services, Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union, said: *"The political deal on the MiFIR review marks an important step towards the Capital Markets Union and the integration of EU capital markets. Through various improvements to the transparency regime, such as the introduction of the consolidated tape and the harmonisation of the publication rules related to transactions in bonds, markets will be easier to navigate, and be more efficient and attractive for EU and international investors. I thank the co-legislators for obtaining such a good result."*

The new rules amending the Markets in Financial Instruments Regulation (MiFIR) are expected to apply from 1 January 2024, with certain elements of the regulation phasing in over the coming years.

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## **NextGenerationEU: Czechia and Lithuania submit request to revise recovery and resilience plans and add a REPowerEU chapter**

Czechia's proposed modification of the plan foresees **new transformative measures to deliver on the REPowerEU objectives**. The REPowerEU chapter added to Czechia's recovery and resilience plan includes **reforms** aiming at streamlining the permitting procedures for renewable energy projects and improving the predictability and transparency of electric grid connections. The REPowerEU chapter also includes several **investments** in buildings' energy efficiency and railway infrastructure. Czechia is also proposing to add **other new measures** to its plan, not included in its REPowerEU chapter, such as a reform to social services and investments in school infrastructure.

Czechia's request to modify its plan is based on its request to take up **€5.8 billion of loans** and **€682 million in REPowerEU grants**. It is also based on the need to factor in the upward [revision](#) of its **RRF grant allocation by €640 million**. The revision is part of the June 2022 [update](#) to the RRF grants allocation key. In addition, Czechia has requested to transfer a portion of its share of the **Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR)**, amounting to **€55 million**, to its plan. All these changes make the **overall submitted modified plan of Czechia worth €14.4 billion**, up from the €7 billion of the original plan.

Lithuania's proposed **REPowerEU chapter** includes **new measures** aimed at facilitating investments in renewable energy, developing green financial products, expanding the production of renewable energy capacity and supporting the renovation of multi-apartment buildings. The submitted request also includes additional investment for instance to improve Lithuania's cybersecurity capabilities and a reform to reduce the administrative burden for businesses.

Lithuania's request to modify its plan is based on the need to factor in the very high inflation experienced in 2022 (one of the highest in the Eurozone). It also follows the downward [revision](#) of its maximum RRF grant allocation, from €2.22

billion to **€2.09 billion**. The revision is part of the June 2022 [update](#) to the RRF grants allocation key and reflects the comparatively better economic outcome in 2020 and 2021 in Lithuania than initially foreseen. Lithuania requested **€1.7 billion in loans. REPowerEU grants** for Lithuania amount to **€194 million**. In addition, Lithuania requested to transfer **€4.7 million** from its allocation under the **BAR** to its plan. These funds make the submitted **overall modified plan worth up to €4 billion**, up from the €2.2 billion of the original plan.

The Commission has now up to two months to assess whether the modified plans of Czechia and Lithuania still fulfil the assessment criteria in the RRF Regulation. If the Commission's assessment is positive, it will make proposals for amended Council Implementing Decisions to reflect the changes to the Czech and Lithuanian plans. Member States will then have up to four weeks to endorse the Commission's assessment.

More information on the process concerning REPowerEU chapters and the revision of recovery and resilience plans can be found in this [Q&A](#).

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**NextGenerationEU: Commission receives Estonia's first payment request, combining the first and the second instalment, for a total of €286 million in grants under the Recovery and Resilience Facility.**

The first and second instalments, which have been combined into one payment request, relate to **28 milestones** and **one target**. They cover **important investments** in the digital transformation of enterprises and of the public administration, including investments in new IT infrastructure for public authorities. In terms of green investments, they cover the creation of a green fund for enterprises, courses on green skills, measures to modernise companies' business models, the deployment of resource-efficient green technologies, the reinforcement of the electricity grid, energy-efficient

renovations of apartment buildings and private houses, and the construction of the Tallinn Old Port tramline.

The payment request also includes a set of **transformative reforms**, for instance aimed at improving workers' digital skills and supporting youth employment, improving access to primary health care and the provision of long-term care, measures to boost the competitiveness of Estonian companies operating on foreign markets and to speed up their green transition, and measures facilitating wind energy installations. A reform to ensure that a monitoring system is in place for the implementation of the recovery and resilience plan is also included.

**Estonia's overall plan will be financed by €953 million in grants.**

Payments under the RRF are performance-based and contingent on Estonia implementing the investments and reforms outlined in its recovery and resilience plan.

The Commission will now assess the request and will then send its preliminary assessment of Estonia's fulfilment of the milestones and target required for this payment to the Council's Economic and Financial Committee.

More information on the process of the payment requests under the RRF is available in this [Q&A](#). More information on the Estonian recovery and resilience plan is available [here](#).

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### **EU VAT rules for e-commerce two years on: Member States collected €20 billion in VAT revenues in 2022**

New figures indicate that Member States collected €20 billion in VAT revenues in 2022 via new systems introduced two years ago as part of efforts to ensure a more level playing field for all businesses. The launch of the expanded 'One Stop Shop' (OSS) and newly introduced 'Import One Stop Shop' (Import OSS) allows businesses to declare and transmit VAT in one Member State for all their sales of goods

and services in the entire EU, as well as on imports of low-value goods into the EU. The new figures, using data provided by Member States themselves, again point to a successful implementation of the new rules. This positive trend had already emerged following an [ex-post evaluation of the first 6 months of application](#) of the e-commerce package.

Over 2022, Member States collected more than €17 billion via the expanded OSS portal which covers online sales within the EU. In addition to this, €2.5 billion in VAT revenues was collected on imports of e-commerce goods. This figure includes the new VAT revenues generated by the abolition of the VAT exemption that previously applied to imports of low value goods not exceeding €22 and which was highly susceptible to fraud.

Overall, VAT revenues collected via the new systems saw a 26% increase on 2021 figures. Almost 130,000 companies have registered to account for their VAT on online sales through the new framework, illustrating the enthusiasm with which traders have embraced the simplifications.

In December 2022, the Commission put forward the [VAT in the Digital Age package](#). The Commission proposed to expand the OSS system to even more EU traders so that they can register for VAT only once in one Member State and take care of their VAT obligations on sales throughout the EU via the OSS. More information on the VAT in the Digital Age proposals are available [here](#). Furthermore, as part of the [customs reform package](#), the Commission proposed to further extend the use of the import OSS, allowing for VAT on all imported e-commerce goods to be declared, regardless of their value.

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### **Commission report highlights smooth and efficient introduction of the euro in Croatia**

**A Commission report issued today on the introduction of the euro in Croatia concludes that the changeover was**

**smooth and efficient.** The report finds that preparations for the changeover went according to plan, and that the public information campaign co-financed by the Commission provided timely, targeted and concise information to citizens. 88% of citizens felt well informed about the introduction of the euro and 61% found the process to be smooth and efficient, according to a [Eurobarometer survey](#) released a month after the changeover. The two-week dual circulation period, when both the kuna and the euro were in circulation, went smoothly. More than 80% of Croatian retailers joined a code of ethics to ensure accurate dual pricing of goods.

Public concern about the possible impact of the changeover on prices was understandable, particularly in a high inflation environment. The report considers that the Croatian authorities took all necessary steps to prevent abusive practices, and that the impact of unwarranted price increases on aggregate inflation seems to have been relatively small and broadly in line with what was observed in previous changeovers.

Kuna cash can still be changed at commercial banks until the end of 2023. After that date, the Croatian National Bank will change kuna coins until the end of 2025, and kuna banknotes without any time limit. The report includes recommendations for future changeovers on how to intensify price monitoring and how to roll out a code of business conduct at an early stage of changeover preparations.

The full report is available [here](#). Croatia became the [20<sup>th</sup> member of the euro](#) area on 1 January 2023.

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**Sondage Eurobaromètre : La majorité des citoyens des États membres n'appartenant pas à la zone euro affirment que l'euro est bon pour l'économie**

Selon la dernière [enquête Eurobaromètre](#), la majorité des citoyens (60 %) des **États membres de l'UE qui n'ont pas encore adopté l'euro** pensent que la monnaie commune a

eu une incidence positive sur les États membres qui l'utilisent déjà. Une majorité estime également que **l'introduction de l'euro aurait des conséquences positives pour leur propre pays** (53 %) et pour eux personnellement (56 %).

Dans l'ensemble, 58 % des répondants sont favorables à l'introduction de l'euro par leur pays. Le soutien est le plus important en Hongrie (72 % en faveur) et en Roumanie (71 %), suivi par la Pologne (55 %), la Suède (54 %), la Bulgarie (49 %) et la Tchéquie (44 %). Dans tous les pays, à l'exception de la Roumanie, au moins la moitié des personnes interrogées se sentent informées de l'euro, plus de huit répondants sur dix (83 %) déclarant en moyenne avoir déjà utilisé des billets ou des pièces en euros.

Cette enquête a été menée en avril 2023 dans les six États membres n'appartenant pas à la zone euro qui se sont juridiquement engagés à adopter l'euro: la Bulgarie, la Tchéquie, la Hongrie, la Pologne, la Roumanie et la Suède. La Commission a [évalué les progrès accomplis](#) par ces États membres sur la voie de l'adhésion à la zone euro en juin de l'année dernière.

Le rapport complet, comprenant des résultats détaillés par État membre, est disponible [ici](#).

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### **European Health Union: creation of a network of vaccine manufacturers to step up health crisis preparedness**

Today, the Commission is announcing the establishment of 'EU FAB', a network of vaccine manufacturers in the EU with sufficient and agile manufacturing capacities that will be able to **quickly produce essential vaccines in the event of a health emergency**. EU FAB members are responsible for ensuring facilities, staff and supply chains are maintained to enable them to quickly start manufacturing at the request of the Commission. EU FAB **will have the capacity to produce up to 325 million vaccines per year**, within the EU.

The [Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority](#) (HERA), in cooperation with the [European Health and Digital Executive Agency](#) (HaDEA), will finance EU FAB with **€160 million per year**.

The number of vaccine doses reserved for EU FAB per year varies between 50 and 140 million depending on the manufacturers. These doses will be entirely produced within the EU, namely in Belgium, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Spain.

More information can be found in the [news item](#).

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### **Agriculture : la Commission approuve les vins « Canelli » d'Italie comme nouvelle indication géographique**

Aujourd'hui la Commission a approuvé l'ajout des vins «[Canelli](#)» d'Italie dans le registre des **Appellations d'origine protégée (AOP)**.

La zone de production de l'AOP « Canelli » comprend 17 communes dans les provinces d'Asti et de Cuneo. Il s'agit d'une zone où la culture du cépage Moscato Bianco et la production du vin « Moscato » constituent une ancienne tradition historique et Culturelle. Le climat est typique de la vallée du Pô (continental modéré), avec des étés très chauds et lourds et des hivers froids et neigeux. La vigne est la principale culture de la région. Les vins ont les caractéristiques suivantes : une robe allant du jaune pâle au jaune doré intense, des notes florales et fruitées et une note aromatique caractéristique du raisin Moscato, savoureuse, acide, mais équilibrée par la douceur.

Cette nouvelle dénomination sera ajoutée à la liste des 1632 vins déjà protégés. La liste de toutes les indications géographiques protégées se trouve dans la base de données [eAmbrosia](#). Plus d'informations sont disponibles en ligne sur [les systèmes de qualité](#) et sur notre portail [GIView](#).

*(Pour plus d'informations : Miriam Garcia Ferrer – Tél. : +32 2 299 90 75; Thérèse Lerebours – Tel.: +32 2 296 33 03)*

### **Mergers: Commission clears creation of joint venture by Messer and TTE**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the creation of a joint venture by Messer SE & CO KGaA of Germany and Toyota Tsusho Europe S.A. ('TTE') of Belgium.

The **joint venture** will offer a one-stop-shop service to fleet operators, which will comprise the provision of hydrogen mobility vehicles such as fuel cell buses, maintenance and fleet management services, as well as on-site production and supply of green hydrogen in Europe.

**Messer** is a producer of industrial, speciality and medical gases, as well as gas mixtures. **TTE** is a wholly owned subsidiary of Toyota Tsusho Corporation, a trading company operating globally across various sectors, such as metals, parts and logistics, automotive, machinery, energy, chemicals and electronics.

The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, given its limited impact on the market. 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.10984](#).

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### **Concentrations : la Commission autorise l'acquisition de Topscale par Wendel**

La Commission européenne a approuvé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, l'acquisition de



Topscale S.A.S., basée en France, par Wendel Luxembourg S.A. (« Wendel »), basée au Luxembourg.

**Topscale** est un prestataire de services, actif dans l'Union européenne, qui intervient notamment dans la gestion de projets industriels et de chaînes d'approvisionnement ainsi que dans l'architecture et le développement de systèmes numériques digitaux. **Wendel** est un gestionnaire alternatif de fonds agréés, actif au niveau mondial.

La Commission a conclu que la concentration envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème de concurrence, dans la mesure où Topscale et Wendel n'interviennent pas dans des secteurs d'activité concurrents. La transaction a été examinée dans le cadre de la procédure simplifiée de contrôle des concentrations.

De plus amples informations sont disponibles sur [le site internet concurrence](#) de la Commission, dans [le registre public](#) des affaires sous le numéro d'affaire [M.11141](#).

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **La présidente von der Leyen et le Collège en Espagne pour l'inauguration de la présidence espagnole du Conseil de l'UE**

La présidente **Ursula von der Leyen** et le Collège des commissaires se rendront lundi à Madrid pour participer à [l'inauguration de la présidence espagnole du Conseil de l'Union européenne](#). Ils visiteront d'abord la Galerie des Collections royales. À leur arrivée, Pedro Sánchez, premier ministre de l'Espagne, les recevra avec les membres du gouvernement espagnol.

La Présidente y tiendra une réunion bilatérale avec le premier ministre Sánchez, et les membres du Collège se réuniront avec leurs homologues du gouvernement espagnol pour débattre, notamment, de la situation géopolitique et des affaires étrangères, des transitions énergétique et numérique, de l'économie, de la démocratie et des valeurs européennes, ainsi que de la sécurité du continent européen.

La Présidente et le Collège auront ensuite un déjeuner en plénière avec les membres du gouvernement espagnol pour discuter des priorités de la présidence du Conseil. Une conférence de presse avec la présidente **von der Leyen** et le premier ministre Sánchez est prévue vers 14h45 CEST qui sera retransmise en direct sur [Ebs](#).

Pour finir la visite, la Présidente et le Collège participeront à une réception officielle au Palais royal avec Sa Majesté le roi Felipe VI, ainsi que les membres du gouvernement espagnol.

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### **Executive Vice-President Timmermans in China for EU-China High-Level Environment and Climate Dialogue and meetings with national representatives**

Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, Frans **Timmermans**, will be in China on Monday and Tuesday for the EU-China High-Level Environment and Climate Dialogue and meetings with government representatives and civil society.

The High-Level Environment and Climate Dialogue is a key platform to enhance bilateral cooperation between the EU and China, and spur domestic and international action on environment and climate change. It is co-chaired by the Executive Vice-President and the Chinese Vice-Premier, Ding Xuexiang. The Fourth dialogue takes place on Tuesday, and is preceded by a bilateral meeting between Executive Vice-President **Timmermans** and the Chinese Vice-Premier.

The Executive Vice-President starts his visit to China with a bilateral meeting with China's Special Envoy for Climate

Change, Minister Xie Zhenhua. After the meeting, they will hold a working lunch with Tsinghua University Vice-President, Bin Yang. In the afternoon, he will deliver a speech on climate change and global challenges to Tsinghua students and professors. Later, he will hold a bilateral meeting and a working dinner with the Minister for Ecology and Environment, Huang Runqiu.

Also on Tuesday, Executive Vice-President **Timmermans** will have bilateral meetings with the Chairman of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), Zheng Shanjie; meet with think tanks and members of civil society; and meet with the Heads of Mission of EU Member States in China. He will also meet with Dr Fatih Birol, the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, while he is in China.

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### **Commissioner Wojciechowski to discuss resilient food systems and sustainable value chains with the African Union**

Today, Commissioner **Wojciechowski** is participating in the [5th African Union \(AU\) – European Union \(EU\) Agriculture Ministerial Conference](#), in Rome.

In the framework of the Africa-EU Partnership, the fifth AU-EU agriculture ministerial conference will cover four high-level thematic sessions on: **Sustainable investment in support of agri-food systems, Research and innovation for smarter policies and technologies, Climate resilience of agri-food systems, and Regional trade integration.**

Commissioner **Wojciechowski**, together with AU and EU Ministers of Agriculture, and representatives of other international organisations, will convene in the **afternoon plenary session** to take stock of the thematic discussions and pave the way for the future cooperation. The plenary session will be [streamed live](#).

This visit is an important moment to show how the African Union and the European Union, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), work collectively to address global food security challenges. Since last year, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and its consequences on global food security led to an intensification of the cooperation between the EU and Africa on agri-food systems, to achieve food security with a focus on sustainable agricultural production, value chain development and resilient food systems that can better cope with external shocks.

Commissioner **Wojciechowski** will also hold bilateral meetings with Josefa Sacko, African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, Qu Dongyu, Director-General of the *FAO*, and Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry of Australia.

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### **Commissioner Reynders in the Hague to participate in the launch of a new International Centre for the prosecution of Russia's crime of aggression**

Commissioner for Justice, Didier **Reynders**, will travel to The Hague on Monday to mark the start of operations of the new **International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine (ICPA)**.

The Centre will help support and enhance national investigations into Russia's crime of aggression against Ukraine, and facilitate case building for future trials. A **press conference** will take place at 11:15 CEST at the [European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation \(Eurojust\)](#), as well as online. Details on how to participate are available on [Eurojust's website](#). The conference can also be followed on [Europe by Satellite \(EbS\)](#).

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*Note that these items can be subject to changes.*

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