



# RAPID

EDIÇÃO DA REPRESENTAÇÃO DA COMISSÃO EUROPEIA EM PORTUGAL

## COMUNICADO DE IMPRENSA

Lisboa, 3 de maio de 2016

### **World Press Freedom Day: Commission's Second Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights to focus on Media Pluralism and Democracy**

On World Press Freedom Day, the Commission is announcing today that the theme of the 2016 Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights will be "Media Pluralism and Democracy". This [second Annual Colloquium](#) will be held in Brussels on 17-18 November 2016. First Vice-President Frans **Timmermans**, Commissioner Günther **Oettinger**, and Commissioner **Jourová** will lead discussions with a wide range of experts on the key role in democratic societies of a free and pluralist media, and in particular digital media. First Vice-President **Timmermans** said today: "*World Press Freedom Day is an occasion to recall that media freedom and pluralism are essential safeguards for well-functioning democracies. Freedom of expression, media freedom and pluralism are enshrined in the EU Charter for Fundamental Rights and are at the core of the basic democratic values on which the European Union is founded.*" Commissioner **Oettinger** added: "*Most of our Member States have high standards of media freedom and pluralism. However, we shouldn't take this situation for granted. The Colloquium will allow for an open exchange on the many different aspects of media pluralism in a digital world, and the modern media's role in our democratic societies. I look forward to discussing how to protect and promote pluralism and how to address the challenges and opportunities of a converged media environment.*" The 2016 Colloquium will be based around interactive roundtable discussions with EU institutions, Member States, NGOs, journalists, media representatives, companies, academics and international organisations. The wide range of topics for discussion will include: protecting and promoting media freedom and independence from state intervention and undue political or commercial pressures; empowering journalists and protecting them from threats of physical violence or hate speech; the role of the media and ethical journalism in promoting fundamental rights; and, how a pluralistic media environment can foster political debate on crucial issues for democratic societies. The Commission's Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights, launched by First Vice-President **Timmermans** in 2015, aims to improve mutual and practical cooperation between different stakeholders. The Colloquium offers a space for dialogue with a wide variety of actors, including civil society and policy makers. The [first Annual Colloquium](#) took place in October 2015, on the theme of

"Tolerance and Respect: Preventing and Combating Antisemitic and anti-Muslim Hatred in Europe".

### **EU supports UNICEF and WHO with €3 million in humanitarian aid for polio vaccinations in Syria**

Today the European Commission has announced €3 million in humanitarian funding for a UNICEF and World Health Organisation-led nationwide polio vaccination campaign in Syria. The campaign aims to reach 2 million children in areas where medical access remains critical, such as in besieged, hard-to-reach and under-served areas. The announcement comes as the United Nations Security Council is set to debate Healthcare in Armed Conflict today. A press release is available [here](#).

### **Single Market: Commission seeks views on how to facilitate cross-border provision of services**

The Commission today launched a [public consultation](#) on how to make it easier for service providers to provide services across the EU. As announced in the [Single Market Strategy](#), the Commission plans to propose by the end of 2016 a Services Passport to simplify the administrative procedures for service providers who want to expand to other Member States. The Commission is also gathering views on how to address the regulatory barriers for key business services and construction and improve access to professional indemnity insurance coverage when service providers go cross-border. The goal of the Services Passport is to give services providers legal certainty and clarity about the rules they have to comply with when they want to operate in another Member State. The Services Passport will simplify administrative procedures without changing the amount of applicable rules or reduce labour law or social protection requirements that service providers need to comply with. By looking at how regulatory and insurance requirements play a role in service providers' activities and options to reduce them if necessary, the Commission wants to make the best use of the Single Market for growth. The [public consultation](#) runs until 26 July.

### **Capital Markets Union: Commission supports crowdfunding as alternative source of finance for Europe's start-ups**

The European Commission is today publishing its report on the EU crowdfunding sector, part of the Capital Markets Union Action Plan. Supporting innovative ways of connecting savings to growth and diversifying the funding sources for European businesses is crucial to improving growth and job creation in Europe. The report finds that crowdfunding remains relatively small but is developing rapidly. If appropriately regulated, it has the potential to be a key source of financing for SMEs over the long term. EU Member States have begun to put in place national frameworks to support the growth of the sector and ensure investors are appropriately protected. For more information, see our press release [here](#).

### **Eurostat: Selon les estimations, les émissions de CO2 ont légèrement augmenté dans l'UE par rapport à 2014**

Eurostat estime que les émissions de dioxyde de carbone (CO2) provenant de la combustion de combustibles fossiles ont augmenté de 0,7% dans l'Union européenne (UE) en 2015 par rapport à l'année précédente. Les émissions de CO2 contribuent fortement au réchauffement de la planète et représentent environ 80% de l'ensemble des émissions de gaz à effet de serre dans l'UE. Elles sont influencées par des facteurs tels que les conditions climatiques, la croissance économique, la taille de la population, les transports et les activités industrielles.

Diverses initiatives de l'UE en faveur de l'efficacité énergétique visent à réduire les émissions de CO2 et autres gaz à effet de serre. Un communiqué de presse est disponible [ici](#).

### **Eurostat: Les prix à la production industrielle en hausse de 0,3% dans la zone euro**

En mars 2016 par rapport à février 2016, les prix à la production industrielle ont augmenté de 0,3% dans la zone euro (ZE19) et de 0,4% dans l'UE28, selon les estimations d'Eurostat, l'office statistique de l'Union européenne. En février 2016, les prix avaient baissé de 0,7% dans la zone euro et de 0,6% dans l'UE28. En mars 2016 par rapport à mars 2015, les prix à la production industrielle ont reculé de 4,2% dans la zone euro et de 4,1% dans l'UE28. Un communiqué de presse est disponible [ici](#).

### **EU HR/VP Mogherini, Vice President Šefčovič and Commissioner Arias Cañete in Washington to participate in the US-EU Energy Council**

On 4 May, High Representative/Vice-President Federica **Mogherini**, Energy Union Vice-President Maroš **Šefčovič** and Climate Action and Energy Commissioner Miguel **Arias Cañete** will co-chair the EU-US Energy Council in Washington, D.C. Jointly with their US counterparts - Secretary of State John Kerry and Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz - the EU representatives will discuss cooperation on energy security and diversification of energy sources, with particular attention given to Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) trade between the EU and the US. Moreover, ways to achieve the clean energy and climate targets agreed at the [Paris Climate Summit](#) will take a prominent place in the meeting. The European and American representatives will debate how to create fair, transparent and liquid global energy markets, promoting energy efficiency, investment in essential energy infrastructure and deployment of new technologies. Cyber security of energy infrastructure and cooperation on global nuclear safety will feature in the agenda too. Moreover, the EU-US Council will explore global energy cooperation with Caribbean, Asian, African and Middle Eastern countries as well as its support for the progressive integration of Ukraine into the European energy market. Read more on [EU-US energy relations](#).

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