



RAPID

EDIÇÃO DA REPRESENTAÇÃO DA COMISSÃO EUROPEIA EM PORTUGAL

COMUNICADO DE IMPRENSA

Lisboa, 9 de dezembro de 2016

- **President Juncker delivers speech on the 25th anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty**

Today European Commission President Jean-Claude **Juncker** gave a speech to students at the University of Maastricht on the occasion of the 25 year anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty. He spoke of the Treaty's achievements in creating the Economic and Monetary Union. Looking to the future, he called for more unity, structured cooperation and defence of our common achievements. He said *"We can no longer explain European integration through its past. We have to explain the European Union through what it can bring for the future."* President **Juncker** explained that Europe is the smallest continent in the world and that only together can European nations continue to be influential on the world stage, saying "Those who think the time has come to deconstruct, to put Europe in pieces, to subdivide us in national divisions are totally wrong. We won't exist as single nations without the European Union".

- **Investment Plan for Europe: EUR 116 million to support digital commerce upgrade**

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has signed a EUR 116 million loan agreement with El Corte Inglés to finance the company's digital transition. The loan is guaranteed under the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the heart of the [Investment Plan for Europe](#). El Corte Inglés will use this EIB financing to expand the investment needed to provide its customers with a new integrated online retail platform, enabling it to strengthen its multichannel online and mobile sales, and create efficient synergies with its brick-and-mortar stores. The project will allow El Corte Inglés to create the new highly qualified positions to implement this digital transformation. (*For more information see [here](#)*).

- **Commission launches two new and one review anti-dumping investigation on steel and iron products**

The European Commission is launching [today](#) and tomorrow three investigations on steel and iron products originating in China and India. Two of the investigations relate to potential new anti-dumping duties to be imposed on one product of Chinese origin (corrosion resistant steel) and another product (certain cast iron articles) originating in China and India. The third investigation concerns an expiry review of existing anti-dumping measures on imports from China of certain seamless pipes and tubes of stainless steel. For the two new investigations, the Commission now has up to nine

months to establish whether conditions to impose provisional duties are met, and a further six months to decide whether to impose definitive measures. On the third investigation, the expiry review will determine whether it is justified to continue for another five years the anti-dumping duties already in place since 2011, or whether they should be discontinued. Corrosion resistant steels are mainly used in the construction sector and in domestic appliances. Stainless seamless pipes and tubes are mainly used in the chemical and petrochemical industries, fertiliser production, power generation, civil engineering and construction, food processing, pharmacology and medical applications, biotechnology, water treatment and waste incineration. Anti-dumping investigations follow a strict procedure in line with EU and World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules. The EU currently has an unprecedented number of trade defence measures in place targeting unfair exports of steel products from third countries, with a total of 40 anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures, 18 of which on products originating from China. 20 more investigations concerning steel products are still ongoing, including three cases for which duties are being provisionally applied.

- **European Commission presents follow-up actions from Fundamental Rights Colloquium on media pluralism and democracy**

Today, the European Commission publishes the follow-up actions from this year's [Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights](#), dedicated to fostering and improving media pluralism and democracy. The discussions in which journalists, academics, NGOs and politicians participated, were focused on six key points: 1) protecting media freedom and independence from political pressure, 2) safeguarding the independence of the media, 3) protecting journalists and their freedom of expression, 4) preventing hate speech against journalists and new media actors, 5) defending whistle-blowers and investigative journalists and 6) promoting media literacy as well as media ethics. The European Commission defined a number of actions to attain these goals. This includes a call for a swift adoption of the [Audiovisual Media Services Directive](#) by the Parliament and Council in order to strengthen the independence of regulatory authorities of the media. The Commission also recommends the swift adoption of the revised [Copyright Directive](#), which should ensure a sustainable financial basis for the media. In order to protect journalists' freedom of expression, the Commission wants to monitor and enhance public awareness on media freedom and pluralism, encourage dialogue with civil society, business and new media. It will also offer funding for independent projects on the freedom of expression and support projects tackling hate speech against journalists. To enhance the protection of whistle-blowers, the Commission will assess whether further EU level legislation is necessary to strengthen their protection. Finally, the European Commission will undertake a number of actions to increase media literacy. This includes funding for media actors, industry, researchers and NGOs to explore issues such as the 'filter-bubble' effect and the roles of algorithms. More information on the 2016 Colloquium are available [online](#). The full set of conclusions is available [here](#).

- **Commission adopts proposal improving collection and use of farm statistics to better support agricultural policy-making**

Today, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation on new, integrated ways to collect and use statistics on farms so as to better support policy making in general and agricultural policy in particular. The proposed framework Regulation on Integrated Farm Statistics will improve the analysis of the state, trends and impacts of European agriculture and contribute to EU responses in the areas of climate change, environmental policies, rural development, and food security. The proposed framework Regulation will increase the comparability and coherence of EU statistics on the structure of European farms, speed up data transmission, and allow for a more elegant, flexible and targeted data collection which reduces the burden on

farms in the EU. It is an important step forward to meet today's and tomorrow's needs and requirements for European agricultural statistics, while also reducing the costs and burdens of data collection. Agriculture uses almost half of the land area of the European Union. It has a large impact on climate change and the environment, and many rural communities depend on agriculture. The EU needs the most accurate information in this field to design policies that benefit all citizens of Europe. The European Commission is strongly committed to supporting sustainable development and fighting climate change, and the proposal helps to achieve these goals.

- **Commission publishes negotiating proposals for modernised EU- Mexico trade deal**

The Commission published today - as part of [its commitment](#) for a more transparent trade and investment policy - [six initial European proposals](#) for modernising various elements of the EU-Mexico agreement. These texts represent the EU's initial negotiating position. Together with the proposals, the Commission has made available the report from the second round of talks that took place in Mexico between 22 and 25 November. Amongst other things, the texts presented by the EU in the negotiations aim to: increase participation of European companies in Mexican public tenders and vice versa; increase cooperation on imports requirements related to food safety, plant and animal health; facilitate trade in energy products and raw materials; and broaden protection of intellectual property, including names of traditional European products known as 'geographical indications'. The proposals seek to reduce unnecessary regulatory barriers to trade and increase the part of trade benefits that go to small companies. At the same time, their aim is to uphold levels of consumer, worker and environment protection and work together with Mexico towards sustainable development. Further EU proposals will be made available as the negotiations progress. EU negotiating proposals and other trade documents published since 14 October 2015 are available on the [Transparency in Action](#) portal.

- **Eurostat: Personal transfers in the EU- Amounts sent abroad by EU residents up at €31.3 billion in 2015- Amounts received from abroad at €11.0 bn**

In 2015, flows of money sent by residents of the European Union (EU) to a non-EU country, referred to as personal transfers, amounted to €31.3 billion, compared with €29.9 bn in 2014. As inflows to the EU totalled slightly less than €11.0 bn in 2015, this resulted in a negative balance (-€20.4 bn) for the EU with the rest of the world. The majority of personal transfers consist of flows of money sent by migrants to their country of origin.

[Full text available on EUROSTAT website](#)

Para mais informações sobre assuntos europeus:

<http://ec.europa.eu/portugal>

Se pretende deixar de receber a nossa newsletter, clique [aqui](#) por favor.

Representação da Comissão Europeia em Portugal, Largo Jean Monnet, n.º 1-10, 1269-068 Lisboa

Telefones: geral (+351) 213 509 800; direto (+351) 213 509 820 / (+351) 213 509 833

Internet: <http://ec.europa.eu/portugal> - E-mail: comm-rep-lisbonne@ec.europa.eu

Siga a Representação no [Facebook](#) e no [Twitter](#)