



RAPID

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Economic Partnership Agreement with southern African countries enters into effect

Five southern African countries - Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland - and the EU today start a new chapter in their bilateral relations with the entry into effect of their Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). Mozambique is in the process of ratifying the agreement and will join in as soon as the ratification procedure is completed. The EPA is a development-oriented agreement that takes into account the different levels of development of the partners. It gives Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, and Swaziland immediate duty-free, quota-free access for their exports to the EU market. South Africa will also benefit from enhanced market access, going beyond its existing bilateral arrangement with the EU. It also provides for a number of protective measures in these countries, for instance for nascent, fragile industries or for food security reasons. Furthermore, the agreement increases the flexibility of southern African producers to put together products with components from various other countries, without the risk of losing their free access to the EU market. The southern African markets will open only partially to EU exports, gradually over time, providing their industries with the intermediary goods they need to support growth. More information is available in [the press release](#), [the MEMO](#), and [today's blog post](#) by Commissioner **Malmström** on the need to give southern African businesses and entrepreneurs the best possible chances of succeeding.

Plan d'investissement pour l'Europe: le Groupe BEI signe accords avec Bpifrance

Le Groupe BEI a signé deux accords pour soutenir l'industrie durable et les PME innovantes avec Bpifrance, filiale de la Caisse des Dépôts et de l'État. Les nouveaux accords soutiennent aux projets d'industrialisation technologique via la création de la première plateforme d'investissement européenne et financement des PME et ETI innovantes. A propos de l'accord avec Bpifrance, Carlos **Moedas**, le commissaire

européen à la recherche, à la science et à l'innovation, a dit: "*Plus d'un milliard d'investissements européens dans des entreprises innovantes en France donnera un coup d'accélération à la relance économique en France et en Europe. C'est aussi un signal fort au secteur privé qui donnera la confiance d'oser et d'innover pour le bien de notre société.*"

Preparation of the ECOFIN and Eurogroup meetings, Luxembourg 10-11 October 2016

Commissioner **Moscovici** will represent the European Commission at today's Eurogroup in Luxembourg, while Vice-President **Dombrovskis** and Commissioner **Moscovici** will take part in tomorrow's ECOFIN meeting. The Eurogroup [agenda](#) includes an exchange of views on the implementation of Greece's stability support programme and a discussion on the implementation of the European Semester. Discussions in both the Eurogroup and Ecofin Council will also focus on the joint Commission – Member State [Report on Health Care and Long-term Care Systems and Fiscal Sustainability](#), which address challenges to the fiscal sustainability of EU health systems against a backdrop of ageing populations and costly technological innovations. Commissioner **Moscovici** will participate in the press conference that follows the Eurogroup meeting. On Tuesday 11th October, the ECOFIN Council will discuss a Commission proposal related to bringing VAT fraud into the scope of new anti-fraud rules in the context of the EU's financial interests. The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on tax transparency and will formally approve [the recent tax transparency agreement with Monaco](#). Also on the [agenda](#) is a follow-up on the autumn G20 and IMF meetings and on the 2016 European Semester policy monitoring process. The Commission will update the Council on the implementation of the Banking Union and the state of play of current legislative proposals in the field of financial services, as well as on negotiations on post-crisis banking reform undertaken by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the financing aspects of climate change ahead of the UN climate change conference in November. Ministers will also discuss the European Commission's proposal for a [European External Investment Plan](#). Vice-President **Dombrovskis** will participate in the press conference concluding the ECOFIN meeting.

EUROSTAT: Plus de 900 millions de passagers aériens en 2015

En 2015, 918,3 millions de passagers ont voyagé par avion dans l'Union européenne (UE), soit une hausse de 4,7% par rapport à 2014 et de 22,0% par rapport à 2009. Sur cette période, le transport aérien de passagers n'a pas cessé de croître dans l'UE. En 2015, le transport intra-UE représentait 45,2% du transport aérien total de passagers dans l'UE, suivi par le transport extra-UE (37,2%), alors que le transport national comptait pour moins d'un passager sur cinq (17,6%). Sur le territoire de l'UE en 2015, 155 personnes ont été tuées lors d'accidents de vols commerciaux impliquant des avions enregistrés dans l'UE. Depuis 2009, 211 personnes au total ont été tuées. Un communiqué de presse EUROSTAT est disponible [en ligne](#).

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