



RAPID

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Unemployment rate at lowest level since 2009 according to Employment and Social Developments Quarterly Review

The autumn edition of the Commission's Employment and Social Development in Europe (ESDE) Quarterly Review 2016 published today, confirms that there has been an increase in employment in the EU in almost all Member States. Between August 2015 and August 2016, an additional 3.2 million people were employed in the EU, 2.2 million of them in the euro area. There also has been a steady increase in the number of permanent jobs and full-time employment over the year. Unemployment in the EU is at its lowest rate (8.6%) since March 2009, with 1.6 million fewer unemployed people in the EU compared to last year. Unemployment rates declined in 24 Member States, although large differences still exist. Long-term unemployment continued to decrease and now affects 4.2% of the labour force, compared to 4.9% one year ago. Youth unemployment in the EU also declined from 20.1% in August 2015 to 18.6% in August 2016. As already highlighted in the report on the Youth Guarantee and the Youth Employment Initiative, there are 1.4 million less young unemployed since the implementation of the schemes in 2013. Finally, Europeans aged between 55 and 64 years are remaining active longer. More specifically, in the first quarter of 2016, close to 3 out of 4 persons within this age group was still part of the work force. Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility Marianne **Thyssen** commented: *"The increasing number of people that find a job shows that our efforts continue to pay off. There are 1.6 million fewer people unemployed in the EU than this time last year, 381.000 of them young people. This confirms the positive results in our Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Initiative report we launched last week. However, we are not there yet. 4.2 million young people are still looking for a job and can't be left behind. We will continue to invest in human capital and to support the upskilling of people to make them fit for the labour market, which more than ever demands a skilled labour force."*

The Commission sets up an online platform to better support development of regions and cities

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) launched a new online in-house '[Knowledge Centre on Territorial Policies](#)'. This platform brings together a

wealth of existing data, methods, and tools to support regional and urban policy, covering areas such as demography, air quality and transport. The aim is to ensure user-friendly access to data for EU, national and international policy makers. The Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies will also help identify gaps in scientific knowledge related to territorial policies, as well as carry out related research. Tibor **Navracsics**, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, responsible for the JRC, said: *"Managing and integrating evidence and data is indispensable for high quality decision making. The Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies will provide a single-access point in order to synthesise and coordinate information that will support Europe's cities and regions in boosting economic growth and job creation."* The new centre will, for instance, offers access to data and indicators on trends and the status of European urban areas, collected from sources such as EUROSTAT, national statistical services, and the OECD. This data will be displayed in a user-friendly way, through dashboards and maps presenting territorial analyses and trends in territories, including population growth, air quality, and accessibility of regional territories. The Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies was launched at [the JRC annual conference focusing on human capital for territorial growth](#).

State aid: Commission approves amendment to the Portuguese regional aid map 2014-2020 for the period 2017-2020

The European Commission has found amendments to [Portugal's regional aid map for granting state aid between 2014 and 2020](#) to be in line with EU state aid rules. The map defines the Portuguese regions that are eligible for regional investment aid under EU state aid rules and establishes the maximum levels of aid (so-called "aid intensities") that can be granted. The [2014 Guidelines on Regional State Aid](#) allow for a mid-term review of the regional aid maps approved by the Commission. This enables Member States to make amendments to the list of supported areas and/or the level of aid intensities in supported areas, in order to take into account recent changes in the social and economic circumstances of individual regions. The modifications to the maps need to comply with the criteria set out in the Guidelines. Portugal notified plans to allow higher levels of regional investment aid to companies investing in the Region of Madeira. The maximum aid intensity ceiling for large enterprises in Madeira will be 45% of the investment costs instead of 35% as set out in the regional aid map approved by the Commission in 2014. The modified map will be in force from 1 January 2017 until 31 December 2020. More information will be available on the Commission's competition website, in the [public case register](#) under the case number SA.46356 (2016/N).

Le taux d'investissement des entreprises quasi stable à 22,2% dans la zone euro

Au deuxième trimestre 2016, le taux d'investissement des entreprises s'est établi à 22,2% dans la zone euro, contre 22,1% au trimestre précédent. La part des profits des entreprises s'est quant à elle située à 40,6% au deuxième trimestre 2016 dans la zone euro, contre 40,5% au premier trimestre 2016. Ces informations, qui proviennent de la première diffusion de données, corrigées des variations saisonnières, sur les comptes européens trimestriels des secteurs, sont publiées par Eurostat, l'office statistique de l'Union européenne, et la Banque centrale européenne (BCE). Un communiqué de presse est disponible [en ligne](#).

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