



RAPID

EDIÇÃO DA REPRESENTAÇÃO DA COMISSÃO EUROPEIA EM PORTUGAL

COMUNICADO DE IMPRENSA

Lisboa, 13 de outubro de 2016

- **European Court of Auditors signs off the EU accounts for 9th year in a row**

The European Court of Auditors gave the EU annual accounts a clean bill of health for the 9th year in a row. The Court found that, in particular in cohesion policy and agriculture, the overall estimated level of error for payments has further declined from 4.4% in 2014 to 3.8% in 2015. No errors were found in the examined revenue transactions. Member States manage 80% of the EU budget, and the Commission has developed incentives to encourage each Member State to further improve its management and control systems. The Commission is assisting Member States in this endeavour by sharing good practices, providing guidance and organising training for the national authorities that spend EU funds on the ground. Also, in 2015 the Commission launched the 'EU budget focussed on results' initiative to ensure that EU resources are put to good use for the benefit of citizens and that EU-funded projects demonstrate clear benefits and value for money. In the cases where the Commission finds that EU funds were spent incorrectly, it takes measures to claw the money back - the average being roughly €3 billion every year. For the financial year 2015, the Commission estimates that future claw-back measures could bring the remaining amount at risk to a level between 0.8% and 1.3% of payments. A complete press release is available [online](#), and answers on frequently asked questions on the annual report of the European Court of Auditors are available [here](#).

- **€1.9 billion to support investment in European transport projects**

Today the Commission launched a [round of calls for proposals](#) under the EU funding programme for transport infrastructure ('[Connecting Europe Facility](#)'). The Connecting Europe Facility supports the [transition to low-emission mobility](#) and stimulates investment for the purpose of job creation. Examples of projects already being funded include the [Brenner rail tunnel](#) and [Rail Baltica](#). Under this new series of calls, €1.9 billion will be made available to finance key transport projects in Europe, from which €1.1 billion has been earmarked for the [15 EU Member States eligible for the cohesion fund](#) in order to ensure sustainable development in the internal market. For the first time, €40 million will also be dedicated to infrastructure projects linking the EU with its neighbouring countries. More information is available [here](#).

- **Commissioner Thyssen attends Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council in Luxembourg**

Today, Commission for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne **Thyssen**, attends the [Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council \(EPSCO\)](#) taking place in Luxembourg. This morning, Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs reached a political agreement on the [Commission's proposal to amend the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive](#), which aims to better protect people

from the risk of cancer-causing chemicals at work. The Council also reached a political agreement on a [directive dealing with the Work in Fishing Convention 2007](#), which will create a better working environment in the fisheries sector. In addition, the Council held a policy debate on the [New Skills Agenda for Europe](#) and the recent proposal regarding the [revision of the Europass framework](#). This afternoon, Ministers will discuss the 2017 European Semester in view of the Autumn Economic Package, and Commissioner **Thyssen** will present the Commission's [Communication on the Youth Guarantee and the Youth Employment Initiative](#). There will also be an exchange of views on the implementation of the [Council Recommendation on Long-Term Unemployment](#), and Ministers will start to prepare the upcoming [Tripartite Social Summit](#) taking place next week. Finally, the Council will discuss the state of play of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) and exchange views on the best way forward, as well as the [Blue Card for highly skilled employment, the Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals](#) and the [collaborative economy](#). Later this afternoon, at the end of the Council meeting, there will be a press conference by Commissioner **Thyssen** and her Slovak counterpart, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Ján Richter. The press conference can be followed live [here](#). Commissioner **Thyssen's** speaking points will be made available [here](#).

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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
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