



RAPID

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President Juncker at the St Petersburg International Economic Forum

On 16 June, European Commission President Jean-Claude **Juncker** delivered a [speech](#) at the opening ceremony of the 20th St Petersburg International Economic Forum. Underlining the reasons for his visit, President **Juncker** said: *"In the coming weeks, the European Union and its Member States will hold a number of important meetings. We will spend many hours talking about our relations with Russia. I take the view that we must also talk with Russia – its leadership, its people. For some this may be a radical idea, for me it is common sense."* The President highlighted the urgency of implementing the Minsk agreements as the first step towards better relations: *"Russia is party to the Minsk agreements. It has made commitments and put them on paper, as have the other signatories. Therefore, the next step is clear: full implementation of the agreements. No more, no less."* At the same time, he set out a vision for future relations between the EU and Russia: *"For the European Union and Russia, the prize, one day, could be great: a vast region governed by the rule of law, trading freely and working together on common projects. Of course, this will not happen overnight, but it is not a utopian vision. It is one which – with good will and ambition on both sides – would serve the best interests of our citizens."* President **Juncker** had the opportunity to reiterate these messages in a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, which was held in a good atmosphere. President **Juncker** and President Putin agreed to stay in close contact.

Commission injects €6.7 billion into transport infrastructure to boost jobs and growth

Today the European Commission is firmly delivering on President **Juncker**'s top priority of [creating jobs and boosting growth in the European Union](#), by unveiling [a list of 195 transport projects](#) that will receive €6.7 billion of funding under the

[Connecting Europe Facility](#) (CEF). The selected projects will notably contribute to the digitalisation and decarbonisation of transport, in line with the broader political agenda of this Commission. The Member States eligible for the Cohesion Fund received almost €5.6 billion, which will help bridge the infrastructure disparities across the EU. Vice-President Jyrki **Katainen**, responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, said: *"I am happy that the Commission is making yet another major contribution to investment in the transport sector which will lead to more jobs and generate economic growth in Europe. I would also like to use this opportunity to encourage all potential project promoters to explore possibilities under [the Investment Plan for Europe](#)."* EU Commissioner for Transport Violeta **Bulc** said: *"The total investment could create up to 100,000 jobs in the European economy by 2030. The projects will make European infrastructure safer, more sustainable and more efficient for passengers and business alike."* More information can be found in a [press release available in all languages](#), in a [Q&A on CEF](#), in [individual country factsheets](#) and in [a MEMO on Transport Investment](#).

European Commission launches new online Knowledge Centre to better manage information and data on migration and demography

Coinciding with World Refugee Day [on 20 June](#) the European Commission will set up a [new online in-house Knowledge Centre for Migration and Demography](#). This will bring together existing knowledge and conduct research and forward-looking analysis on future migration flows and population trends, studying amongst other aspects, their impact on health, welfare, education systems and the economy in Europe. Tibor **Navracsics**, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, responsible for the Joint Research Centre, said: *"Migration is at the top of the EU political agenda. There is a great need to underpin policy decisions with sound evidence. The Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography will help centralise, put into context and make comparable the relevant knowledge existing both within the Commission and outside it, in order to serve the different EU policies with the most appropriate information."* The Knowledge Centre will also develop strategic partnerships and networks across Europe and internationally to build the evidence base and conduct analysis. In doing so, it will involve all relevant stakeholders within the Commission, including the Directorates-General for Migration and Home Affairs, Research and Innovation, International Cooperation and Development, Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, the European Political Strategy Centre, Eurostat and the Joint Research Centre, which will manage the collective knowledge. Kristalina **Georgieva**, Vice-President of the European Commission, Budget and Human Resources, Tibor **Navracsics**, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, Christos **Stylianides**, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, and Carlos **Moedas**, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, are expected to speak at the launch event in Brussels.

New EU rules to promote high-quality audits take effect

New EU statutory audit rules become applicable today, which will contribute to boosting confidence in the financial sector. This new regime will help promote high-quality audits throughout the EU and will enhance investor trust in the financial information of companies, thereby supporting the conditions for cross-border investment and economic growth in the Union. These rules consist of an amended Directive setting out the framework for all statutory audits and a Regulation setting out specific requirements for statutory audits of public-interest entities (PIEs), such as listed companies, banks and insurance undertakings. The European Parliament and Council already adopted the new rules in April 2014. In the last two years, the Commission has worked closely with Member States, national audit supervisors and stakeholders to smooth the path to implementation and facilitate the transition to the new regime. Additional information can be found in the [press release](#) and the updated [memo](#).

EUROSTAT: Première estimation pour avril 2016 - Excédent de 13,4 milliards d'euros des échanges courants de l'UE28 - Excédent de 10,9 milliards d'euros pour la balance des services

Le compte des opérations courantes de la balance des paiements de l'UE28, corrigé des variations saisonnières, a enregistré un excédent de 13,4 milliards d'euros en avril 2016, contre des excédents de 17,6 mrds en mars 2016 et de 13,0 mrds en avril 2015, selon les estimations d'Eurostat, l'office statistique de l'Union européenne. En avril 2016 par rapport à mars 2016, basé sur des données corrigées des variations saisonnières, l'excédent du compte des biens s'est réduit (+12,1 mrds d'euros, contre +15,5 mrds) tout comme celui du compte des services (+10,9 mrds, contre +12,1 mrds) et le déficit du compte des revenus secondaires s'est creusé (-8,4 mrds d'euros, contre -7,9 mrds). Le déficit du compte des revenus primaires s'est réduit (-1,2 mrd d'euros, contre -2,2 mrds). Sur une période de 12 mois cumulés se finissant en avril 2016, le compte des opérations courantes a affiché un excédent de 177,1 mrds d'euros, contre +136,8 mrds pour la période de 12 mois jusqu'à avril 2015. L'excédent du compte des biens s'est accru durant cette même période (+124,6 mrds d'euros, contre +50,7 mrds), tandis que celui du compte des services a légèrement diminué (+154,3 mrds d'euros, contre +150,7 mrds). Le déficit du compte des revenus secondaires s'est creusé (-85,8 mrds d'euros, contre -76,8 mrds) et le compte des revenus primaires est passé d'excédentaire à déficitaire (-16,0 mrds d'euros, contre +5,9 mrds). Un communiqué de presse EUROSTAT est à votre disposition [en ligne](#).

EUROSTAT: Premier trimestre 2016 - La croissance annuelle des coûts de la main-d'œuvre en hausse à 1,7% dans la zone euro - En baisse à 1,7% dans l'UE28

Les coûts horaires de la main-d'œuvre ont augmenté de 1,7% tant dans la zone euro (ZE19) que dans l'UE28 au premier trimestre 2016, par rapport au même trimestre de l'année précédente. Au quatrième trimestre 2015, les coûts horaires de la main-d'œuvre avaient progressé respectivement de 1,3% et 2,0%. Ces données sont publiées par Eurostat, l'office statistique de l'Union européenne. Les deux principales composantes des coûts de la main-d'œuvre sont les salaires & traitements ainsi que les coûts non salariaux. Dans la zone euro, les salaires & traitements horaires ont augmenté de 1,8% et les coûts non salariaux de 1,5% au premier trimestre 2016, par rapport au même trimestre de l'année précédente. Au quatrième trimestre 2015, les variations annuelles s'établissaient respectivement à +1,5% et +0,7%. Dans l'UE28, les salaires & traitements horaires ont progressé de 1,7% et les coûts non salariaux de 1,6% au premier trimestre 2016. Au quatrième trimestre 2015, les variations annuelles s'établissaient respectivement à +2,1% et +1,3%. Un communiqué de presse EUROSTAT est à votre disposition [en ligne](#).

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