



# RAPID

EDIÇÃO DA REPRESENTAÇÃO DA COMISSÃO EUROPEIA EM PORTUGAL

## COMUNICADO DE IMPRENSA

Lisboa, 22 de julho de 2016

- **The July infringements' package: Commission acts for full, proper and timely implementation of EU law for the benefit of citizens and businesses**

To help citizens and businesses benefit fully from the internal market, the European Commission continuously engages with and, if necessary, initiates infringement procedures against Member States which do not respect European law. The European Commission also closes pending cases where the Member State concerned, in cooperation with the Commission, has solved the problem and ensured compliance with EU law, thus rendering a referral to the Court of Justice of the EU unnecessary. This month, as part of its monthly package of infringement decisions, the Commission took a number of decisions (including 20 reasoned opinions, 8 referrals to the Court of Justice of the EU, and on 86 closures). A summary of the key decisions as well as the contact details of the relevant Spokespersons and the corresponding press releases can be found in the [fact sheet](#). On the general EU infringement procedure, a memo is also available [here](#).

- **SME financing gets a fresh boost under the Investment Plan for Europe**

One of the main success stories of the [Investment Plan for Europe](#) has been the interest by financial intermediaries across Europe to use the EU budget guarantee to provide finance to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). Therefore, as we announced on 1 June in our [stock-take](#) of the Investment Plan for Europe, we are scaling up the SME window of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). This week, the Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group have signed an agreement to make this a reality. The agreement reinforces the SME window by shifting EUR 500 million from the EU guarantee from the Infrastructure and Innovation window to the SME window; and it uses the EFSI guarantee to boost equity financing of SMEs and top up the InnovFin and COSME loan guarantee instruments as well as the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI). These measures will allow the European Investment Fund (EIF)

to finance a significant extra volume of operations, meaning more EFSI-backed equity and loans will reach European SMEs, including those in the social sector.

- **Commission authorises three genetically modified soybeans for food/feed uses**

Today the Commission authorised three GMOs for food/feed uses (soybean MON 87708 x MON 89788, soybean MON 87705 x MON 89788 and soybean FG 72), all of which have gone through a comprehensive authorisation procedure, including a favourable scientific assessment by EFSA. The authorisation decisions do not cover cultivation. The GMOs approved today had received "no opinion" votes from the Member States in both the Standing and Appeal Committees and the Commission adopted the pending decisions. The authorisations are valid for 10 years, and any products produced from these GMOs will be subject to the EU's strict labelling and traceability rules. For more information see [here](#).

- **First quarter of 2016 compared with fourth quarter of 2015-Government debt up to 91.7% of GDP in euro area-Down to 84.8% of GDP in EU28**

At the end of the first quarter of 2016, the government debt to GDP ratio in the **euro area** (EA19) stood at 91.7%, compared with 90.7% at the end of the fourth quarter of 2015. In the **EU28**, the ratio decreased from 85.3% to 84.8%. Compared with the first quarter of 2015, the government debt to GDP ratio fell in both the **euro area** (from 93.0% to 91.7%) and the **EU28** (from 88.1% to 84.8%).

[Full text available on EUROSTAT website](#)

- **First quarter of 2016-Seasonally adjusted government deficit down to 1.6% of GDP in the euro area-Down to 1.8% of GDP in the EU28**

In the first quarter of 2016, the seasonally adjusted general government deficit to GDP ratio stood at 1.6% in the **euro area** (EA19), a decrease compared with 2.3% in the fourth quarter of 2015. In the **EU28**, the deficit to GDP ratio stood at 1.8%, a decrease compared with 2.3% in the previous quarter. [Full text available on EUROSTAT website](#)

- **Commissioner Moscovici participates in G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Chengdu, China**

Commissioner **Moscovici** will represent the European Commission at the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting on 22-24 July in Chengdu, China. The agenda of the ministerial meetings includes discussions on the Global Economy, a Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth, Financial Sector Reform, the International Financial Architecture, Investment and Infrastructure as well as International Taxation issues. Green finance, Climate finance and Anti-terrorist Financing will be also covered by the ministerial working sessions. In addition to the ministerial meetings, a G20 high-level Tax Symposium on tax Policy opportunities for Strong, Sustained and balanced Growth will take place on 23 July. The discussion in Chengdu will constitute an important step towards the G20 Hangzhou Leaders' Summit on 4-5 September.

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