

EDIÇÃO DA REPRESENTAÇÃO DA COMISSÃO EUROPEIA EM PORTUGAL

## **COMUNICADO DE IMPRENSA**

Lisboa, 27 de janeiro de 2016

 Message by President Jean-Claude Juncker to the Jewish community on the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Today, President Jean-Claude **Juncker** conveyed the following message to the Jewish community: "Our entire society has a duty to prevent Anti-Semitism and we must fight it on every corner – whether on the extreme right or the extreme left or when it is instigated by extreme Islamists. The European Commission is doing everything in its powers. I want Europe to be a home for all communities. We are determined: Never again. Because a Europe of hate is one that we refuse. Because a Europe without Jews would be no longer Europe." On the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Commission will organise a training for EU officials from all EU institutions on this topic and on fundamental rights, where Commissioner **Jourová** will deliver the closing remarks. Commissioners Dimitris **Avramopoulos** and Věra **Jourová** will open an exhibition on "The Roma Genocide during WWII" in the Berlaymont. Read the full statement here.

• European Commission tightens rules for safer and cleaner cars

The Commission has today proposed a major overhaul of the so-called 'EU type approval framework' to ensure car manufacturers comply strictly with all EU safety, environmental and production requirements. Under current rules, national authorities are solely responsible for certifying that a vehicle meets all requirements to be placed on the market and for policing manufacturers' compliance with EU law. Today's proposals will make vehicle testing more independent and increase surveillance of cars already in circulation. Greater European oversight will strengthen the system as a whole. The proposal for a Regulation on the approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles complements efforts to introduce more robust emissions testing (Real Driving Emissions testing). A press release and factsheet are available online. The press

conference by Vice-President Katainen and Commissioner Bieńkowska can be followed live on <u>EbS</u> (follow schedule for details).

## College of Commissioners holds a first orientation debate on the European Pillar of Social Rights

Following up on President Juncker's 2015 State of the Union address on 9 September 2015 and in line with the 2016 Commission Work Programme, today the College of Commissioners held a first orientation debate on establishing a European Pillar of Social Rights. The Pillar should be a self-standing document, which would serve as a framework to screen employment and social performance in the light of changing work patterns and societies and, more generally, as a compass for the renewed process of convergence within the euro area. The Commission will launch a broad consultation in a few weeks. Social partners, national, regional and local authorities as well as civil society will be invited to contribute. More information can be found in the memo. Commissioner Thyssen's speaking points will be available online after the press conference.

## Commissioners and EU Ministers discuss collaborative economy, unjustified geo-blocking, single market for services and research in Amsterdam

Today and tomorrow, Vice-Presidents Ansip and Katainen, as well as Commissioners Oettinger, Bieńkowska and Moedas participate in an informal Competitiveness Council in Amsterdam (programme). Discussions with EU Ministers cover how to create the right environment to boost research and innovation, strengthen the single market for services, tackle unjustified geoblocking and harness the potential of the collaborative economy. The first results of the public consultations published today show more than 90% of consumer respondents agreeing that consumers and businesses should be able to purchase and access services anywhere in the EU and that restrictions create significant obstacles to the single market (see preliminary trends of the public consultation on geo-blocking). A large majority of both businesses and consumers believe that uncertainty over the rights and obligations of users and providers could form a major obstacle to the growth of the collaborative economy (see preliminary trends of the public consultation on platforms, online intermediaries, data and cloud computing and the collaborative economy). As part of its <u>Single Market</u> and <u>Digital Single Market</u> strategies, the Commission will prepare a legislative proposal to tackle unjustified geo-blocking and provide guidance on how existing EU law applies to collaborative economy business models in mid-2016. Other steps will also be taken to improve the single market for services by the end of 2017. These initiatives are priorities for the Netherlands EU Presidency. A press conference will take place with Henk Kamp, Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs, Vice-Presidents Ansip and Katainen tomorrow at 14:45 (it will be broadcast live on *EbS*).

## • EUROSTAT: What is the extent of contingent liabilities and nonperforming loans in the EU Member States?

Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, publishes today information on contingent liabilities and non-performing loans of government in 2014. This data has been provided by EU Member States in the context of the Enhanced Economic Governance package (the "six pack"). A Eurostat press release is available *here*.

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