



RAPID

EDIÇÃO DA REPRESENTAÇÃO DA COMISSÃO EUROPEIA EM PORTUGAL

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The **Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI)** and the **Business Climate Indicator (BCI)** was published today by the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN). The documents are available [here](#).

European Commission's emergency support already helping refugees in Greece

A week after the first €83 million worth of projects were signed under the EU's new [Emergency Support Instrument](#), with the UNHCR, the International Federation of the Red Cross, the Danish Refugee Council, the International Rescue Committee, Save the Children, Oxfam, Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund and Médecins Du Monde, these key partner organisations have already started delivering support to improve living conditions of refugees in Greece. These organisations are working with Greek NGOs who have the necessary local knowledge. Support is being provided in the areas of shelter, primary health care, food, better hygiene conditions and to create child friendly spaces. Assistance through these projects is already being provided in Idomeni, Diavata, Cherso, Giannitsa, Alexandria, Eliniko and Skaramangas. Areas of assistance being delivered include water, sanitation and health activities (WASH), protection, food distribution and community mobilisation. *"Last week we made funding immediately available to humanitarian partners under the new emergency support instrument. While these projects are just being set up, I'm pleased that support is already reaching refugees in need of assistance. I thank our partners who are working in close collaboration with the Greek authorities and local NGOs for their fast response and their efforts to restore dignified conditions for refugees in Greece. This is our common goal."* said EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos **Stylianides**. Please see the [table](#) outlining the first projects, a [Q&A factsheet](#), [factograph](#), as well as [video footage](#) of Commissioner **Stylianides'** visit to Athens last week.

European Commission launches new research prize to reduce deaths during childbirth

The European Commission, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Merck Sharp & Dohme Corporation today launched the "Birth Day Prize". This cash prize will award up to three innovators for identifying and implementing the most effective solutions to prevent death and complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Carlos **Moedas**, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: "*Mortality rates during childbirth remain alarmingly high in many parts of the world. With about 99% of maternal deaths occurring in developing countries, we must find innovative ways to support the modernisation of healthcare systems, to prevent the unnecessary deaths of mothers and their infants.*" Proposed solutions can be of a clinical, technological or managerial nature and need to be novel, safe and scalable. For this prize, the European Commission will commit €1 million under the EU's research and innovation programme [Horizon 2020](#). In addition, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has pledged another €1 million, while the Merck Sharp & Dohme Corporation will donate €500,000. According to UNICEF, 2.65 million newborns die as a consequence of pregnancy or childbirth-related complications. The World Health Organisation (WHO) states that in 2015, 300,000 women died from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, while for every woman dying every year between 20 and 30 others experience lifelong disabilities or damages. More details and the rules of the contest are available [online](#).

Commission sets out technical conditions to allocate more radio frequencies to mobile internet services

The Commission today adopted a set of harmonised technical conditions that lay the ground for the allocation of more spectrum to mobile services in the 700 MHz band. On 2 February 2016, the Commission presented a proposal to better coordinate spectrum within the ultra-high frequency band (470-790 MHz) in the EU and to boost mobile services with more radio frequencies from the 700 MHz band ([press release](#)). This initiative will help the EU meet the growing demand for wireless broadband. Andrus **Ansip**, Vice-President for the [Digital Single Market](#), said: "*28 different approaches to manage radio frequencies in the EU do not make economic sense in the Digital Single Market. We need to better coordinate spectrum in the EU. We proposed a joint approach to use the 700 MHz band for mobile services. It will give top-quality internet access to all Europeans, even in rural areas*". Günther H. **Oettinger**, Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society, said: "*We cannot have high-quality mobile internet for everything and for everyone everywhere unless we have modern infrastructure and modern rules. With our proposal we show that we can have both: a vibrant audiovisual sector as well as the spectrum we will need for 5G. The 700 MHz band will be ideal for new promising fields like connected driving and the Internet of Things*". The Commission proposed that most of the 700 MHz band should be assigned to wireless broadband services by 30 June 2020 at the latest in all EU countries. To make this happen and prepare the transition, the Commission today adopted a decision which sets out related technical conditions reducing the risk of cross-border interferences and harmonising the way these frequencies should be used across the EU. More information can be found [here](#).

The April 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 2 letters of formal notice accompanied by a [press release](#), 35 reasoned opinions accompanied by a [press release](#), and 113 closures). The Commission also decided to refer 6 Member States to the Court of Justice of the EU in a number of other areas covering: environment ([Germany](#) and [Poland](#)), mobility and transport ([Spain](#) and the Netherlands – on the [interoperability of the rail system](#) and on the [Railway Safety Directive](#)), and taxation and Customs Union - [Germany](#). 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](#).

EUROSTAT: Le revenu réel des ménages par habitant quasi stable dans la zone euro, en hausse dans l'UE28

Dans la zone euro, en termes réels, le revenu des ménages par habitant a augmenté de 0,1% au quatrième trimestre 2015, après une hausse de 0,4% au trimestre précédent. La consommation réelle des ménages par habitant a reculé de 0,1% au quatrième trimestre 2015, après avoir augmenté de 0,5% au troisième trimestre 2015. Un communiqué de presse est disponible [ici](#).

EUROSTAT: Le taux de chômage régional dans l'UE compris entre 2,5% et 34,0%

Plus de 60% des régions NUTS 2 que compte l'Union européenne (UE) ont enregistré en 2015 un recul de leur taux de chômage régional d'au moins 0,5 point de pourcentage par rapport à 2014. Toutefois, les taux de chômage régionaux sont toujours marqués par de fortes disparités entre régions de l'UE. Les taux les plus faibles ont été enregistrés dans les régions allemandes de Freiburg et de Niederbayern, d'Oberbayern et d'Oberpfalz, suivies par Praha en République tchèque. À l'autre extrémité de l'échelle, les taux de chômage les plus élevés ont été relevés dans les régions de Melilla et d'Andalucía en Espagne, de Dytiki Makedonia en Grèce, de Canarias et d'Extremadura en Espagne. Un communiqué de presse est disponible [ici](#).

Vice-President Ansip at G7 ICT ministerial meeting in Japan to discuss free flow of data, digital innovation and international cooperation

On 29 and 30 April, Vice-President **Ansip**, in charge of the [Digital Single Market](#), will be in Takamatsu, Kagawa, Japan, to participate in a [meeting with ministers](#) responsible for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States (G7 countries). It will help prepare the [G7 summit](#) that will take place in Japan on 26 and 27 May and in which President **Juncker** will participate. Ahead of his visit, Vice-President **Ansip** said: *"I welcome the fact that, after 20 years, digital issues are back on the G7 agenda. Free flow of data underpins the digital economy, and how to achieve it globally while ensuring trust and privacy will be part of the discussions in Takamatsu. We have constructive discussions with our Japanese partners. Our aim is to facilitate data transfers between the EU and Japan while guaranteeing a high level of data protection which would be beneficial for both*

*our economies". G7 ICT ministers are expected to adopt a joint declaration and a long-term vision document on the digital economy on 30 April (to be published [here](#)). On 29 April, Vice-President **Ansip** will open a G7 ICT multi-stakeholders' conference. He will explain how Europe's future Digital Single Market will help foster international cooperation in a globalised economy: "As part of our strategy to create a Digital Single Market in Europe, we have recently adopted a series of measures to digitise European industry. In all the areas where we need fast standardisation – 5G, cloud computing, internet of things, data technologies and cybersecurity – we need to cooperate and this will be high on the G7 ministerial agenda". The conference will be livestreamed [here](#).*

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