



RAPID

EDIÇÃO DA REPRESENTAÇÃO DA COMISSÃO EUROPEIA EM PORTUGAL

COMUNICADO DE IMPRENSA

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- **Official launch of REFIT Platform: New approach brings together stakeholders for better regulation and better results**

Today in Brussels, First Vice-President Frans Timmermans chairs the first meeting of the REFIT Platform. Forty-eight members from a diverse range of stakeholders, the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Committee of the Regions and all Member State governments will come together to make EU legislation and its implementation in Member States more efficient and more effective in achieving its objectives. By bringing together a diverse group of experts on the concrete impact of EU legislation on the ground, this initiative will provide a basis for inclusive work on the common goal of better regulation for better results.

(More information in [IP-16-188](#))

- **European aviation: First environmental report points at sustainability challenge**

Today the European Commission published the first [European Aviation Environmental Report](#), the result of a close collaboration across various EU bodies. The report includes key performance indicators on noise, greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, in order to provide an overview of the environmental performance of the sector. Among the findings, forecast scenarios for the next 20 years show that with the expected increase in traffic the environmental sustainability of the sector will be increasingly challenged.

- **European Commission takes action to open up international procurement markets**

The European Commission has today presented a revised proposal for an International Procurement Instrument - a tool to promote open access for EU companies to public procurement markets around the world. While the EU is an open economy, many of the EU's major trading partners apply restrictive practices which discriminate against EU businesses. Once adopted by the Council, the new instrument presented today, would allow the Commission to initiate public investigations in cases of alleged discrimination of EU companies in procurement markets. A full press release in [EN](#), [FR](#), [DE](#) with more background information on the new instrument is available online.

- **Energy Union diplomacy: EU and Turkey strengthen energy ties**

On 28 January 2016, the EU and Turkey held a high-level dialogue on energy in Istanbul. The delegation from the European Commission was led by the Climate action and Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete. Discussions focused on integrating the [Turkish](#) energy market with the EU, [energy efficiency](#) and [renewables](#), climate change and a follow-up on the [COP21 climate negotiations](#) in Paris, [gas markets](#) and [interconnections](#), the development of the [Southern Gas Corridor](#), and the Trans-Anatolian gas pipeline (TANAP) which is part of the Southern Gas Corridor – Turkey is a key transit country for these gas routes to the EU. Talks also covered electricity markets and interconnections, [nuclear safety](#), and regional cooperation and integration in the [Energy Community](#) and [Euro-Mediterranean cooperation](#) on energy. In particular the Southern Gas Corridor will help many countries in Central and South East Europe to diversify their sources of gas, boosting their energy security. It will expand the infrastructure that can bring gas to the EU from the Caspian Basin, Central Asia, the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean Basin. When the route opens in 2019/2020, it will allow around 10 billion cubic metres (bcm) of gas to flow along the route, possibly rising to 80-100 bcm in the long term. In this way, the Southern Gas Corridor has the potential to meet up to 20% of the EU's gas needs. For more information, read the [Joint Press Statement after the 'Turkey - EU High Level Energy Dialogue' Meeting](#).

- **Braga is the European city with the highest increase in satisfaction with health care services and in Lisbon 57% of citizens are satisfied with public transportation, according to latest Eurobarometer**

Today the European Commission released the results of the 5th Flash Eurobarometer survey on the [“Perception of Quality of Life in European Cities”](#), conducted in 79 European cities and focusing on the quality of infrastructures and services, employment opportunities, the housing situation, the integration of foreigners, feeling of safety, pollution, green spaces and cleanliness. Among the main findings: Oslo, Zurich, Aalborg, Vilnius and Belfast record the highest level of satisfaction. Satisfaction with health care services provides another example of such positive evolution, notably in Braga. Braga scores high in many other issues, for example regarding schools and educational establishments and a positive perception towards the presence of foreigners. In Lisbon, the majority of respondents (57%) say they are satisfied with public transport. Regarding the city's cultural facilities, the respondents in the city of Lisbon are more likely than those from the overall “Greater Lisbon” to be satisfied (69% compared with 59%). More information on the [urban dimension of Cohesion Policy](#) is available online.

- **EUROSTAT: euro area annual inflation up to 0.4%**

Euro area annual inflation is expected to be 0.4% in January 2016, up from 0.2% in December 2015, according to a flash estimate from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. Looking at the main components of euro area inflation, services is expected to have the highest annual rate in January (1.2%, compared with 1.1% in December), followed by food, alcohol & tobacco (1.1%, compared with 1.2% in December), non-energy industrial goods (0.7%, compared with 0.5% in December) and energy (-5.3%, compared with -5.8% in December). A Eurostat press release is available [here](#).

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