



# RAPID

EDIÇÃO DA REPRESENTAÇÃO DA COMISSÃO EUROPEIA EM PORTUGAL

## COMUNICADO DE IMPRENSA

Lisboa, 29 de abril de 2016

### **President Juncker to attend Charlemagne Prize award ceremony for Pope Francis**

On Friday 6 May in the Vatican, European Commission President, Jean-Claude **Juncker** will join European Parliament President, Martin Schulz, and European Council President, Donald Tusk, at the ceremony to award the [Charlemagne Prize](#) to His Holiness, Pope Francis. The event takes place in the *Sala Regia* of the Pope's official residence, where the three Presidents will deliver a joint eulogy. On the eve of the ceremony, Thursday 5 May, President **Juncker** will take part in a debate on the State of the Union, alongside Italian Prime Minister, Matteo Renzi, German Federal Chancellor, Angela Merkel, and Presidents Schulz and Tusk. Hosted by the board of the Charlemagne Prize, the event will take place at the Capitolini Museum – in the room where the Treaty of Rome was signed in 1957. *See also [Upcoming Events](#)*)

### **Investment Plan for Europe: new EFSI deals signed in Denmark, France, Portugal, Spain and Sweden**

The European Investment Fund (EIF) has signed several new agreements today to benefit very small, small and medium-sized businesses in Denmark, France, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. Each transaction benefits from the support of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the heart of the [Investment Plan for Europe](#). In Portugal and Spain, the agreement is with Growth Equity Fund Nmas1 Capital Privado to provide €400 million to tech-oriented Mid-Caps in Spain and Portugal. *(More information about each of these agreements is available [here](#))*

### **Georgia joins EU research and funding programme Horizon 2020**

Carlos **Moedas**, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, and Ms Tamar Sanikidze, Georgian Minister for Education and Science will today sign an agreement in Brussels associating Georgia to [Horizon 2020](#), the EU's framework programme for research and innovation. The agreement will allow researchers and innovators from [Georgia](#) to be able to participate in Horizon 2020 under the same conditions as their counterparts from EU Member States and other [associated countries](#). Ahead of the signature EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos **Moedas** said: *"I am very pleased to be welcoming*

*Georgia into Horizon 2020, the world's largest public funding programme for research and innovation. EU research, science and innovation is open to the world for collaboration and we value working together with our partners to invest in knowledge and innovation for the future. Georgia's association will bring a diversity of expertise and ideas, enriching our international research cooperation."* EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes **Hahn** said: *"The full association of Georgia into Horizon 2020 will allow its enterprises and research institutions to become even more competitive and resilient. Georgia is an important partner for the EU and a frontrunner of the Eastern Partnership: extending Horizon 2020 to Georgia is a further, concrete sign of our commitment to closer political association and economic integration with the country."* A [press release](#) will be issued after the signature, foreseen at 15:00. Photos and video will be available on [EbS](#).

### **New EU rules for a simpler, faster and safer Customs Union come into force**

New customs rules come into force this Sunday 1 May that will make life simpler for businesses that trade in Europe and better protect consumers against illegal and counterfeit goods. The new [Union Customs Code](#) (UCC) represents a major overhaul of existing EU customs legislation, which dates back to 1992. It is a milestone for the European Customs Union, the framework which allows more than €3 trillion worth of goods to flow in and out of the EU each year. Pierre Moscovici, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs said: *"An efficient EU Customs Union facilitates trade while at the same time enforcing necessary rules for security, safety and intellectual property rights. The new Union Customs Code opens the door to new state-of-the-art IT systems that will provide fast and quality data on goods being traded and will allow extremely close coordination among the administrations of our Member States"*. The Customs Union is unique in the world and is essential for the proper functioning of the Single Market. The new UCC reflects a move towards a more modern customs environment for EU countries, making European business more competitive and advancing the EU Strategy for growth and jobs. All press material is available [here](#).

### **New decrease in roaming charges before their end in June 2017**

As of tomorrow calling, texting or surfing online from another Member States (roaming) will get cheaper. When travelling in the EU, mobile devices users will only pay a small amount on top of their domestic prices: up to €0.05 per minute of call made, €0.02 per SMS sent, and €0.05 per MB of data (excl. VAT). This will be a short transition period since as from mid-June 2017, Europeans will pay the same price whether they use their mobile devices at home or somewhere else in the EU. Commission Vice-President **Ansip**, responsible for the Digital Single Market, said: *"We're in the home stretch now before the end of roaming charges in 2017. This is not only about Europeans saving money, this is about bringing down barriers in the Digital Single Market"*. The [rules](#) entering into force tomorrow also set the principle of net neutrality rules for the first time in EU law. Commissioner **Oettinger**, in charge of the Digital Economy and Society, said: *"These rules protect the right of every European to access the online content of their choice, without interference or discrimination. They will avoid fragmentation in the Single Market, creating legal certainty for businesses and making it easier for them to work across border"*. More information can be found in this [factsheet](#) and on this [webpage](#).

### **Eurostat: Le taux de chômage en baisse à 10,2% dans la zone euro**

Dans la zone euro (ZE19), le taux de chômage corrigé des variations saisonnières s'est établi à 10,2% en mars 2016, en baisse par rapport au taux de 10,4% enregistré en février 2016 et à celui de 11,2% de mars 2015. Il s'agit du taux le plus faible enregistré dans la zone euro depuis août 2011. Dans l'UE28, le taux de chômage s'est établi à 8,8% en mars 2016, en baisse par rapport au taux de 8,9% de février 2016 et à celui de 9,7% de mars 2015. Il s'agit du taux le plus faible enregistré dans l'UE28 en 7 ans, depuis avril 2009. La Commissaire à l'Emploi, aux Affaires sociales, aux Compétences et à la Mobilité des travailleurs, Marianne **Thyssen**, a commenté: *"Le taux de chômage continue à diminuer. Ceci est évidemment une bonne nouvelle, cependant, nous aurions aimé voir le recul des chiffres à un rythme plus rapide. Nous devons intensifier nos efforts dans la lutte contre le chômage, qui est l'un des objectifs de l'Agenda des Compétences Nouvelles que nous allons proposer plus tard cette année."* Ces chiffres sont publiés par Eurostat, l'office statistique de l'Union européenne. Un communiqué de presse est disponible [ici](#).

### **Discover EU-funded projects near you: launch of the "Europe in my Region" campaign**

Today marks the first day of the "[Europe in my Region](#)" campaign, which will run until 11 June, encouraging citizens to discover Cohesion Policy projects near them. Over 1200 events in 23 EU Member States will be organised during the campaign, including many projects opening their doors to the public. *"Projects supported by Cohesion Policy are concrete examples of the EU making a real difference in people's life. A hospital getting new high-tech equipment; a whole village getting access to broadband; a small business getting a loan: these projects are the best ambassadors of our efforts to reach EU goals of growth, jobs and social inclusion. I believe this campaign will help our projects get all the attention they deserve,"* said Commissioner for Regional Policy Corina **Crețu**. More information on [projects supported by Cohesion Policy](#) and on [the European Structural and Investment \(ESI\) Funds](#) is available online.

### **Eurostat: GDP up by 0.6% in the euro area and by 0.5% in the EU28**

Seasonally adjusted GDP rose by 0.6% in the euro area (EA19) and by 0.5% in the EU28 during the first quarter of 2016, compared with the previous quarter, according to a preliminary flash estimate published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In the fourth quarter of 2015, GDP grew by 0.3% in the euro area and by 0.4% in the EU28. A Eurostat press release is available [here](#).

### **Euro area annual inflation down to -0.2%**

Euro area annual inflation is expected to be -0.2% in April 2016, down from 0.0% in March, 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 April (1.0%, compared with 1.4% in March), followed by food, alcohol & tobacco (0.8%, stable compared with March), non-energy industrial goods, (0.5%, stable compared with March) and energy (-8.6%, compared with -8.7% in March). A Eurostat press release is available [here](#).

### **Eurostat launches early Gross Domestic Product flash estimates**

As of today, Eurostat will publish preliminary flash estimates of quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the euro area and for the European Union at 30 days after the end of the quarter, compared with 45 days previously. This means that both the European and United States' GDP growth rates will now be released at

around the same date, which simplifies access to high quality data for people interested in world-wide macro-economic statistics. Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne **Thyssen**, commented: "*Jobs, growth and investment*' is the first priority of this Commission. *Gross Domestic Product, GDP, is one of the most important indicators to measure how well our economy is performing. And as the European Union is one of the biggest economies in the world, changes in European GDP are followed closely. Key users, like the European Commission and the European Central Bank, but also national policy makers, business and market analysts and media, will all benefit from the earlier availability of these figures.*" The existing release at 45 days after the end of the quarter will continue to be published as at present, containing in addition to the EU and euro area figures, data for all available Member States. Commissioner **Thyssen's** video message can be watched [here](#), and a short introductory video to this new release can be found [here](#).

### **Europe Day 2016: 9 May**

On Monday 9 May, [Europe Day](#) will be celebrated across the European Union. For the Commission's part, President **Juncker** and other Members of the College will take part in events at national and European level. These include Open-Doors in [Commission Representations](#), citizens' dialogues, debates, conferences and numerous cultural events. Europe Day marks the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, presented on 9 May 1950 by French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman, which proposed the creation of a European Coal and Steel Community.

### **Energy diplomacy: Climate Action and Energy Commissioner Arias Cañete at G7 Energy Ministers meeting in Kitakyushu, Japan**

EU Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel **Arias Cañete** will travel to Kitakyushu to participate in the meeting of G7 Energy Ministers on 1-2 May. G7 representatives from France, Germany, Italy, the UK, the US, Japan and Canada will be also participating. The main items on the agenda are global energy security, energy investment for global economic growth and sustainable energy. The meeting will also focus on cyber security of energy infrastructure, innovation and deployment of new energy technologies, as well as on support for energy sector reforms in Ukraine. In the margins of the G7 Energy ministerial meeting, Commissioner Arias Cañete will meet with Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Motoo Hayashi, United States Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz, and with Canada's Minister of Natural Resources Jim Carr. In addition to the G7 Energy Ministerial Meeting, Commissioner **Arias Cañete** will also meet Japan's Environment Minister Ms Tamayo Marukawa as well as Japanese industry representatives (Hitachi, Toshiba, Mitsubishi) in Tokyo. For more information visit the website of the [Japanese G7 Presidency](#).

Para mais informações sobre assuntos europeus:

<http://ec.europa.eu/portugal>

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