



# RAPID

EDIÇÃO DA REPRESENTAÇÃO DA COMISSÃO EUROPEIA EM PORTUGAL

## COMUNICADO DE IMPRENSA

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### **A new strategy to put culture at the heart of EU international relations**

Today the European Commission and EU High Representative / Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** adopted the [Strategy for international cultural relations](#), which will contribute to making the EU a stronger actor on the global scene, one of the ten political priorities of the Commission. EU High Representative / Vice-President **Mogherini** said: *"Culture has to be part and parcel of our foreign policy. Culture is a powerful tool to build bridges between people, notably the young, and reinforce mutual understanding. It can also be an engine for economic and social development. As we face common challenges, culture can help all of us, in Europe, Africa, Middle East, Asia, stand together, to fight radicalisation, and build an alliance of civilisations against those trying to divide us. This is why cultural diplomacy must be at the core of our relationship with today's world."* European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor **Navracsics**, said: *"Culture is the hidden gem of our foreign policy. It helps to promote dialogue and mutual understanding. Culture is therefore crucial in building long-term relationships with countries across the whole world: it has a great role to play in making the EU a stronger global actor."* The Strategy aims at encouraging cultural cooperation between the EU and its partner countries and promoting a global order based on peace, the rule of law, freedom of expression, mutual understanding and respect for fundamental values. A full [press release](#) and [memo](#) are available online.

### **International Aviation: New EU-level Agreements will benefit European passengers and businesses**

The 28 EU Transport Ministers yesterday authorised the European Commission to start negotiations for EU-level [aviation agreements](#) with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Turkey, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Commission will now reach out to these partners in order to start negotiations swiftly. These negotiating mandates constitute one of the main deliverables of the new [Aviation Strategy for Europe](#) adopted by the Commission in December 2015. EU-level aviation agreements create new economic opportunities and ensure fair and transparent market conditions. EU Commissioner for Transport Violeta **Bulc** said, *"Global connectivity is a driver of trade and*

*tourism, directly contributing to economic growth and job creation. Once agreed, these agreements will offer new business opportunities to the whole aviation sector, new routes and better fares to passengers, whilst guaranteeing a level playing field to our companies. However this is only the beginning. I now invite Member States to continue working on the remaining mandates."* More information can be found in a press release available in [EN](#), [FR](#), [DE](#) and in dedicated factsheets ([ASEAN](#), [Gulf States](#), [Turkey](#)).

## **Participation of members of the European Commission at the Brussels Economic Forum on 9 June**

Vice-President Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Vice-President Jyrki **Katainen** and Commissioner Pierre **Moscovici** will participate in this year's Brussels Economic Forum, the flagship economic event of the European Commission, which will take place on 9 June at the Flagey Building. The Forum's objective is to facilitate discussions on recent economic developments, future challenges and policy priorities. The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the Brussels Economic Forum focuses on the steps needed to achieve a deeper and fairer Economic and Monetary Union; the structural reforms necessary to foster growth and sustain recovery; the lessons learned from economic adjustment programmes; and on investment as an engine for growth. The Forum brings together distinguished European and international policymakers, including Werner Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank; François Villeroy de Galhau, Governor of the Banque de France; Klaus Regling, Managing Director of the European Stability Mechanism; Euclid Tsakalotos, Minister of Finance of Greece; and Harris Georgiades, Minister of Finance of Cyprus. Mario Draghi, President of the European Central Bank, will open the conference with a keynote address. The remarks of Vice-Presidents [Valdis Dombrovskis](#) and [Jyrki Katainen](#), and Commissioner [Pierre Moscovici](#) will be made available online after delivery. The conference will be [live-streamed](#). Further details and the programme are available [here](#).

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