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<p><b>EU integration process in CEE countries</b></p>	<p><b>Joint statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini and Commissioner Johannes Hahn on Bosnia and Herzegovina's authorities' agreement on key measures on the country's EU path</b></p> <p>The agreements reached this weekend in Bosnia and Herzegovina - on the coordination mechanism and on the decision to proceed with an IMF programme - are very welcome news. With them, the country's leadership, at all levels, has further demonstrated its commitment to the EU integration path of the country, in line with their citizens' expectations.</p> <p>The coordination mechanism aims at improving the country's policy coordination and implementation, including as regards EU financial assistance, as well as ensuring better interaction with the EU. The decision to proceed with an IMF programme will provide crucial support for the implementation of the Reform Agenda, a comprehensive set of socio-economic, rule of law and public administration reforms.</p> <p><a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-16-2704_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release STATEMENT-16-2704_en.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Pros, advantages and obligations resulting from EU membership</b></p>	<p><b>Simplification of the implementation of Cohesion Policy is the means not the end</b></p> <p>The process for using the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) is getting more complicated not just with every programming period, but virtually every year. For this reason, I very much welcome the fact that the European Commission has started to seriously tackle simplification and to this end has not only set up a high-level group (HLG), but has also invited the other partners to debate the issue. Part of the simplification process has to be a focus on making the fundamental idea and spirit of cohesion policy as such a reality, and this should be a regional policy.</p> <p><a href="http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/Simplification-of-the-implementation-of-Cohesion-Policy-is-the-means-not-the-end.aspx">http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/Simplification-of-the-implementation-of-Cohesion-Policy-is-the-means-not-the-end.aspx</a></p>
<p><b>General development of the EU</b></p>	<p><b>Hollande tries to bring together Europe's South</b></p> <p>At a meeting of socialist leaders yesterday (25 August), French President François Hollande pleaded against the rise of populism. He also announced his participation in another summit of the EU's southern countries in Athens, on 9 September.</p> <p><a href="https://www.euractiv.com/section/future-eu/news/hollande-tries-to-bring-together-europes-south/">https://www.euractiv.com/section/future-eu/news/hollande-tries-to-bring-together-europes-south/</a></p>
<p><b>Introduction to EU institutions and their Functioning</b></p>	<p><b>EU's 2017 budget: Parliament starts drawing up its position</b></p> <p>The Commission has proposed an EU budget of €134.9 billion in payments and €157.7 billion in commitments for next year. Commitments are what the EU undertakes to spend on programmes and may span more than one year, while payments are the actual expenditure foreseen for the next 12-month period. However, the Council wants to cut the budget for commitments by €1.3 billion in commitments (-0.81%) and for payments by €1.1 billion (-0,82%).According to the</p>

	<p>Parliament, the budget priorities should continue to be tackling the migration crisis while helping the economic recovery.  <a href="http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160830STO40504/eu's-2017-budget-parliament-starts-drawing-up-its-position">http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160830STO40504/eu's-2017-budget-parliament-starts-drawing-up-its-position</a></p>
<p><b>Introduction to EU law</b></p>	<p><b>REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE on the application of Directive 2008/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters</b>      Directive 2008/52/EC on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters,<sup>1</sup> including the area of family law, seeks to facilitate access to alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and to promote the amicable settlement of disputes, by encouraging the use of mediation and by ensuring a sound relationship between mediation and judicial proceedings. It applies in cross-border disputes to civil and commercial matters and had to be transposed into national law by 21 May 2011. This evaluation of the application of the Directive is carried out in accordance with Article 11 of the Directive.  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/justice/civil/files/act_part1_adopted_en.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/justice/civil/files/act_part1_adopted_en.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Decentralized management of EU funds</b></p>	<p><b>State aid: Commission approves support schemes for renewable energy in Luxembourg and Malta</b>      The European Commission has found plans by Luxembourg and Malta to support power generation from renewable sources to be in line with EU state aid rules. The schemes will increase electricity produced from renewable sources, in line with EU energy objectives, without unduly distorting competition. The Commission assessed the plans under the 2014 Guidelines on state aid for environmental protection and energy, which allow Member States to support the production of electricity from renewable sources under certain conditions. The Luxembourg scheme introduces premium payments to support operators of wind, solar, biogas, hydropower and biomass installations. The total budget of the measure will be approximately €150 million, allocated between 2016 and 2020.  <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2906_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2906_en.htm</a></p> <p><b>State aid: Commission approves hydropower and biogas support schemes in Czech Republic</b>      The European Commission has found that two Czech schemes to support electricity and heat production from hydropower and biogas are in line with EU state aid rules. The schemes will increase energy produced from renewable sources, in line with EU objectives, without unduly distorting competition. The two measures will encourage the deployment of renewable energy installations and help the Czech Republic achieve its 2020 renewable energy targets.  <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2866_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2866_en.htm</a></p> <p><b>Commission proposes fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea for 2017</b>      The proposal is based on the recently adopted multiannual fisheries management plan for the Baltic Sea, and takes into consideration scientific advice received in May 2016. The Commission proposes to increase catch limits for 6 out of 10 fish stocks (Western, Bothnian and Central herring, sprat, plaice and main basin salmon) and to decrease catch limits for 2 stocks (Gulf of Riga herring and Gulf of</p>

	<p>Finland salmon). The Commission is collecting more information before proposing catch limits for the remaining 2 stocks (Western and Eastern cod).  <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2849_en.htm?locale=en">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2849_en.htm?locale=en</a></p>
<p><b>Multi-level governance</b></p>	<p><b>Interview with Jeremy Rifkin: "We have to invest in smart and sustainable regions and cities"</b>  Jeremy Rifkin is the bestselling author of twenty books on the impact of scientific and technological changes on the economy, the workforce, society, and the environment. In 2014 Mr Rifkin published his latest book, The Zero Marginal Cost Society: The Internet of Things, the Collaborative Commons, and the Eclipse of Capitalism. In 2011, Jeremy Rifkin published the New York Times bestseller The Third Industrial Revolution, which captured the attention of the world. Mr Rifkin's vision of a sustainable, post-carbon economic era has been endorsed by the European Union and the United Nations. Mr Rifkin is the principle architect of the European Union's Third Industrial Revolution long term economic sustainability plan to address the triple challenge of the global economic crisis, energy security, and climate change.  <a href="http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/Interview-with-Jeremy-Rifkin.aspx">http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/Interview-with-Jeremy-Rifkin.aspx</a></p>
<p><b>Introduction to different negotiation chapters</b>  <i>Chapter 1: Free movement of goods</i>  <i>Chapter 2: Freedom of movement for workers</i>  <i>Chapter 3: Right of establishment and freedom to provide services</i>  <i>Chapter 4: Free movement of capital</i>  <i>Chapter 5: Public procurement</i>  <i>Chapter 6: Company Law</i>  <i>Chapter 7: Intellectual property law</i>  <i>Chapter 8: Competition</i>  <i>Chapter 9: Financial services</i>  <i>Chapter 10: Information society and media</i>  <i>Chapter 11: Agriculture and rural development</i>  <i>Chapter 12: Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy</i>  <i>Chapter 13: Fisheries</i>  <i>Chapter 14: Transport policy</i>  <i>Chapter 15: Energy</i>  <i>Chapter 16: Taxation</i>  <i>Chapter 17: Economic and monetary policy</i>  <i>Chapter 18: Statistics</i></p>	<p><b>Towards better social statistics for a social Europe</b>  The European Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation on new, integrated ways to collect and use data from social surveys so as to better support policy making in general and social policy in particular.  The proposed framework Regulation will allow data to be published faster, as it reduces the transmission deadlines in a number of areas. It will also increase the comparability and coherence of EU social statistics, by bringing together seven existing household surveys that are currently carried out in the EU and harmonising variables that are common to two or more surveys. This will, in addition, facilitate joint analysis of social phenomena, based on new survey methods.  <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2867_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2867_en.htm</a></p> <p><b>Review of Directive 2006/1/EC on the use of hired vehicles for the carriage of goods by road</b>  Consultation period: 11/08/2016 - 4/11/2016  This consultation will last for 12 weeks. Questionnaires should be returned by 4 November 2016 at the very latest. All citizens and organisations are welcome to contribute to this consultation. The consultation can particularly be of interest for citizens or undertakings using road transport services in their activity, road transport workers and companies engaged in the transport chain. It can also be of particular interest for regional, national or international public authorities and other organisations directly involved in the road transport sector.  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/road/consultations/2016-review-hired-vehicles-carriage-goods_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/road/consultations/2016-review-hired-vehicles-carriage-goods_en.htm</a></p> <p><b>Commission publishes Strategy for low-emission mobility</b>  The Commission presented on 20 July 2016 a package of measures to accelerate the transition to low-carbon emissions in all sectors of the economy in Europe. As concerns transport, the Commission's "Strategy for low-emission mobility" sets clear guiding principles to prepare for the future. It frames the initiatives that the</p>

Chapter 19: Social policy and employment  
 Chapter 20: Enterprise and industrial policy  
 Chapter 21: Trans-European networks  
 Chapter 22: Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments  
 Chapter 23: Judiciary and fundamental rights  
 Chapter 24: Justice, freedom and security  
 Chapter 25: Research and development  
 Chapter 26: Education and culture  
 Chapter 27: Environment  
 Chapter 28: Consumer and health protection  
 Chapter 29: Customs union  
 Chapter 30: External relations  
 Chapter 31: Foreign, security and defence policy  
 Chapter 32: Financial control  
 Chapter 33: Financial and budgetary provisions

Commission is planning in the coming years, and it maps the areas in which it is exploring options. It also shows how initiatives in related fields are linked and how synergies can be achieved.  
[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/strategies/news/2016-07-20-decarbonisation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/strategies/news/2016-07-20-decarbonisation_en.htm)

**EU and UNICEF widen partnership to better protect child rights in South-East Europe**

The European Union (EU) and UNICEF have broadened an important regional partnership that aims to protect children from violence and better include children with disabilities into society. Since 2011, UNICEF and the EU have been working together with countries currently in the process of joining the EU, such as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Turkey. This partnership is now expanding to include Kosovo\*, Montenegro, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/news\\_corner/news/2016/08/20160804\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/news_corner/news/2016/08/20160804_en.htm)

**Verheugen: car emission rules could be more specific**

Former Commissioner Verheugen argued that as Commissioner for industry his main responsibility was to keep the EU car industry globally leading and competitive, with rules best suited for technological development, including pollutants' limits. He relied on experts for the drafting of the directives on Euro 5 (on particles) and Euro 6 (NOx). It was clear that type approval tests didn't represent real driving conditions and therefore a new test started to be developed in 2007 but no one suspected that manufacturers would cheat using so-called defeat devices.  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160830IPR40518/verheugen-car-emission-rules-could-be-more-specific>

**July 2016 - Euro area unemployment at 10.1% - EU28 at 8.6%**

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.1% in July 2016, stable compared to June 2016 and down from 10.8% in July 2015. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since July 2011. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 8.6% in July 2016, stable compared to June 2016 and down from 9.4% in July 2015. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since March 2009. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.  
[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STAT-16-2927\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STAT-16-2927_en.htm?locale=en)

**Specific issues relating to the**  
 • **European arrest warrant,**  
 • **Stockholm programme**  
 • **Third pillar**  
**Recognition of professional qualifications**

**EESC delegation to Moscow in support of a continued dialogue with Russian civil society organisations**

As the European body representing European organised civil society in the EU legislative process, in line with the guiding principles of the EU's policy towards Russia, and convinced of the need for civil society dialogue between the EU and Russia to remain open at all times, the EESC affirms its continued interest in engaging in people-to-people contacts and in supporting Russian civil society organisations representing different and diverse interests and views.  
<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.press-releases.40143>

<p><b>Introduction to different sector policies</b></p>	<p><b>First quarter 2016 compared with fourth quarter 2015- 15% of unemployed persons in the EU found a job</b>  Out of all persons in the European Union (EU) who were unemployed in the fourth quarter 2015, 65.7% (13.0 million persons) remained unemployed in the first quarter 2016, while 15.4% (3.0 million) moved into employment and 18.9% (3.7 million) towards economic inactivity in Q1 2016.  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7598781/3-26082016-AP-EN.pdf/2d58df73-2401-40cd-94be-2df90257532c">http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7598781/3-26082016-AP-EN.pdf/2d58df73-2401-40cd-94be-2df90257532c</a></p>
<p><b>Promotion of EU upcoming events and news</b></p>	<p><b>1st Summit of the Blue Economy Business and Science Forum</b>  12/09/2016- 13/09/2016, Hamburg, Germany  The summit will gather together over 200 Blue Economy stakeholders to discuss and propose solutions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•how to boost the European competitiveness in marine and maritime technologies;</li> <li>•how to increase cooperation between science and industrial sectors; and</li> <li>•how to fully demonstrate the value of innovative technologies, scale them up and bring them to the market.</li> </ul> <p>Participants will also discuss bottlenecks hindering the commercialisation of innovative blue technologies in the EU. Innovation is costly and even more so in the marine environment. Therefore, access to finance for innovation will be considered as one of the key issues.  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/mare/itemdetail.cfm?subweb=342&amp;lang=en&amp;item_id=31238">http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/mare/itemdetail.cfm?subweb=342&amp;lang=en&amp;item_id=31238</a></p> <p><b>Factories of the Future Conference 2016</b>  15 -16 September, Brussels  The European Factories of the Future Research Association (EFFRA), is organising the Factories of the Future Conference 2016: Materialising Factories 4.0. The event will take place on 15 and 16 September in Brussels. The conference is dedicated to the transformation of manufacturing across Europe. It will showcase the achievements of research and innovation projects that are revolutionising manufacturing in Europe through the EU's €1.15 billion 'Factories of the Future' partnership.  <a href="http://www.earto.eu/news/detail/article/effra-is-organising-its-factories-of-the-future-conference-2016-on-15-16-september-in-brussels.html">http://www.earto.eu/news/detail/article/effra-is-organising-its-factories-of-the-future-conference-2016-on-15-16-september-in-brussels.html</a></p> <p><b>Smart urban mobility: opportunities for cooperation and finance</b>  22/09/2016, Prague, Czech Republic  The aim of the event is to discuss how investments in electric mobility and in smart mobility services in European urban areas can be increased.  This conference will gather about 50 selected practitioners and leaders from public and private sectors from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and neighbouring countries to discuss how smart city mobility concepts can be implemented at scale in Europe's cities. This event is a great opportunity to share and to develop plans how to grow smart city mobility in your cities, and shape Europe's smart city mobility future.  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/events/2016-07-18-regional-outreach_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/events/2016-07-18-regional-outreach_en.htm</a></p>

**Horizon 2020 InfoDay 'Smart, green and integrated transport'**

28 September 2016, Brussels

The event will address potential applicants to the Horizon 2020 'Smart, green and integrated transport' calls for project proposals under the 2016-2017 Work programme.

<https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/news-events/events/2016-information-day-horizon-2020-smart-green-and-integrated-transport>

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