



EUROBULLETIN

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EU integration process in CEE countries

Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the EC, meets Volodymyr Groysman, Prime Minister of Ukraine

Juncker: „Our Ukrainian friends have to know that they are not alone, because the European Union stands ready to support Ukraine in more or less all the matters – mainly as far the territorial integrity of the country is concerned, the sovereignty of Ukraine, the independence of Ukraine.“ [\(Read more\)](#)

Statement by the EU High Representative on the situation in Turkey

„Turkey is a key partner for the European Union. The EU fully supports the democratically elected government, the institutions of the country and the rule of law. We continue to follow closely the developments and to coordinate with the 28 EU Member States.“ [\(Read more\)](#)

Pros, advantages and obligations resulting from EU membership

The July infringements package: key decisions

The European Commission is pursuing legal action against Member States for failing to comply with their obligations under EU law. The key decisions includes a letter of formal notice, 20 reasoned opinions and 8 referrals to the Court of Justice of the European Union. [\(Read more\)](#)

Visa reciprocity with US and Canada: latest developments

In recent months, contacts with the US and Canada have been intensified at the highest political level, to achieve full visa waiver reciprocity. With the Communication adopted, the Commission commits to continue to push for full visa reciprocity and will coordinate its activities with the relevant Member States to accelerate the delivery of results. [\(Read more\)](#)

General development of the EU

EU publishes key results of international cooperation and development activities

The first report based on "EU International Cooperation and Development Results Framework" provides a selection of results achieved in about 100 partner countries across the globe with the support of EU-funded projects and programmes. This marks a significant step forward in terms of transparency, and strengthens the focus on performance and results in EU international cooperation and development. [\(Read more\)](#)

EU-Jordan: towards a stronger partnership

The EU and Jordan reconfirmed their solid partnership, strengthening their relations on political, security, trade and cooperation matters, at the 10th EU-Jordan Association Committee in Amman this week. In the margins of the meeting, a decision was reached to simplify the rules of origin that Jordanian exporters use in their trade with the EU. [\(Read more\)](#)

European Innovation Scoreboard Innovation performance compared

The European Innovation Scoreboard provides a comparative assessment of research and innovation performance and the relative strengths and weaknesses of national research and innovation systems. It covers the EU Member States as well as Iceland, Israel, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, and Ukraine. [\(Read more\)](#)

EU first exporter worldwide

EU confirms its No. 1 position as agri-food exporter worldwide. Agri-food exports reached €129 billion in 2015, more than 7 % of all goods exported from the EU. EU exports for agricultural products reached €129 billion in 2015, an annual increase of 5.7%, securing the EU's position as first world agri-food exporter with a net trade surplus of €16 billion. [\(Read more\)](#)

Introduction to EU institutions and their functioning

European Commission appoints new Head of Representation in Lisbon

The European Commission has appointed Ms Sofia Colares Alves as the new Head of its Representation in Portugal. Ms Alves, who took up the office on 16 July, brings over twenty years of European and International affairs experience to the post. [\(Read more\)](#)

Introduction to EU law

Member State compliance with EU law improving, but more work ahead to unleash full potential of Single Market

The Annual Report provides a clear picture on how the Commission monitored and enforced European Union law in 2015 and the Single Market Scoreboard reveals that barriers to the free movement of persons, services, goods and capital in the EU are being eliminated in most areas. [\(Read more\)](#)

New rules to support investment in venture capital and social enterprises

The European Commission has proposed amendments to the European Venture Capital Funds (EuVECA) and the European Social Entrepreneurship Funds (EuSEF) regulations, marking another step towards the creation of the Capital Markets Union. The proposal aims to boost investment into venture capital and social projects and make it easier for investors to invest in small and medium-sized innovative companies. [\(Read more\)](#)

Decentralized management of EU funds

Horizon 2020: Work Programme update supports competitiveness through open science

The European Commission confirmed the calls and other actions of the second year of the two-year work programmes setting out funding opportunities for 2017. The calls and other actions under the current work programme updates have a budget of €8.5 billion. All the calls and related information are published on a single portal. ([Read more](#))

European Commission outlines new support package worth €500 million for European farmers

The package contains three main elements: a EU-wide scheme to incentivise a reduction in milk production, conditional adjustment aid to be defined and implemented at Member State level, a range of technical measures to provide flexibility. ([Read more](#))

Commission launches two new financial instruments to boost investments in start-ups and sustainable urban development

The European Commission adopted two new "off-the-shelf", i.e. "ready-to-use" financial instruments for ESI Funds investments, to ease access to funding for young businesses and urban development project promoters.

In the 2014-2020 period, the Commission is encouraging Member States to double their European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds investments used through financial instruments, such as loans, equity and guarantees, in line with the objectives of the Investment Plan. ([Read more](#))

Multi-level governance

Posting of Workers: Commission discusses concerns of national Parliaments

The College adopted a Communication re-examining its proposal for a revision of the Posting of Workers Directive in the context of the subsidiarity control mechanism that several national parliaments triggered in May. After careful consideration of their views, the Commission concludes that the proposal for a revision of the Directive does not constitute a breach of the subsidiarity principle. ([Read more](#))

Introduction to different negotiation chapters

Proposal to integrate the land use sector into the EU 2030 Climate and Energy Framework

A robust climate policy framework is a key element of the EU's Energy Union and a successful transition to a low-carbon economy. This is a necessary shift that will require a contribution from all sectors of the economy. Incentives for climate-friendly land use and forestry ensure the continued growth and sustainable productivity of our rural communities, which provide important services and economic benefit. ([Read more](#))

European Parliament's plenary adopted the Directive on Security of Network and Information Systems

The Directive on Security of Network and Information Systems is the first comprehensive piece of EU legislation on cybersecurity and a fundamental building block for our work in this area. It requires companies in critical sectors to adopt risk management practices and report major incidents. ([Read more](#))

MEPs clarify licensing rules and safeguards

EU countries will have to introduce stronger controls on "blank-firing" guns, to prevent them being converted to fire live ammunition, under Internal Market Committee amendments, voted on 13th of July, to a draft update of the EU firearms directive. ([Read more](#))

The 3rd pillar devoted to police and judicial cooperation

Implementation of the European Agenda on Security

The European Commission adopted the European Agenda on Security on 28 April 2015, setting out the main actions envisaged to ensure an effective EU response to security threats over the period 2015-2020. Since its adoption, significant progress has been made in its implementation. ([Read more](#))

Reforming the Common European Asylum System

The Commission is proposing to complete the reform of the Common European Asylum System through: the establishment of a common EU asylum, ensuring maximum harmonisation of the standards for the qualification and content of protection for refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, a reform of the Reception Conditions Directive. ([Read more](#))

Introduction to different sector policies

Energy Union and Climate Action: Driving Europe's transition to a low-carbon economy

The Commission is working to keep the EU competitive as the global social economic model changes following the impetus to move towards a modern and low-carbon economy set by the Paris Agreement on climate change. These proposals set clear and fair guiding principles to Member States to prepare for the future and keep Europe competitive. This is part and parcel of the Energy Union and a forward-looking Climate Change policy ([Read more](#))

Factsheet on the Commission's proposal on binding greenhouse gas emission reductions for Member States (2021-2030)

The collective efforts of all Member States will be required to modernise the economy and ensure a successful transition to a low-carbon economy. This is a shift that will provide jobs, growth and investment opportunities for Europe while mitigating dangerous climate change. Such a transition requires changes in business and investment behaviour and incentives across the entire policy spectrum. ([Read more](#))

Energy: EU invests €263 million in energy infrastructure

EU Member States agreed on the European Commission's proposal to invest €263 million in key European energy infrastructure projects. The lion's share of the investment will support the building of gas infrastructure in the Baltic Sea region as well as supporting the electricity sector across Europe. Nine projects were selected following a call for proposals under the EU funding support programme the Connecting Europe Facility. ([Read more](#))

Promotion of EU upcoming events and news

Explore Europe this summer in Brussels or Berlin

Check out the Parliament's visitors centre in Brussels, discover how laws and policy decisions are shaped by the Parliament and the other EU institutions and enjoy the new exhibition "Searching for beauty". ([Read more](#))

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