



Commission *en* direct

#37 Février 2017

DOSSIER CLEAN ENERGY for All Europeans



■ EUROPE & BEYOND
**Erasmus
at 30**

■ OUR STORIES
Cancer Support

■ AU QUOTIDIEN
**Monti on
own resources**

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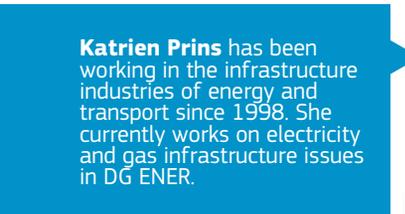
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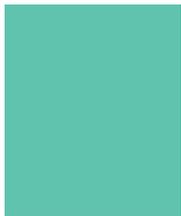
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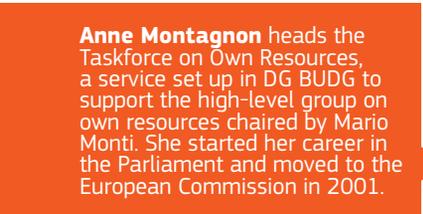
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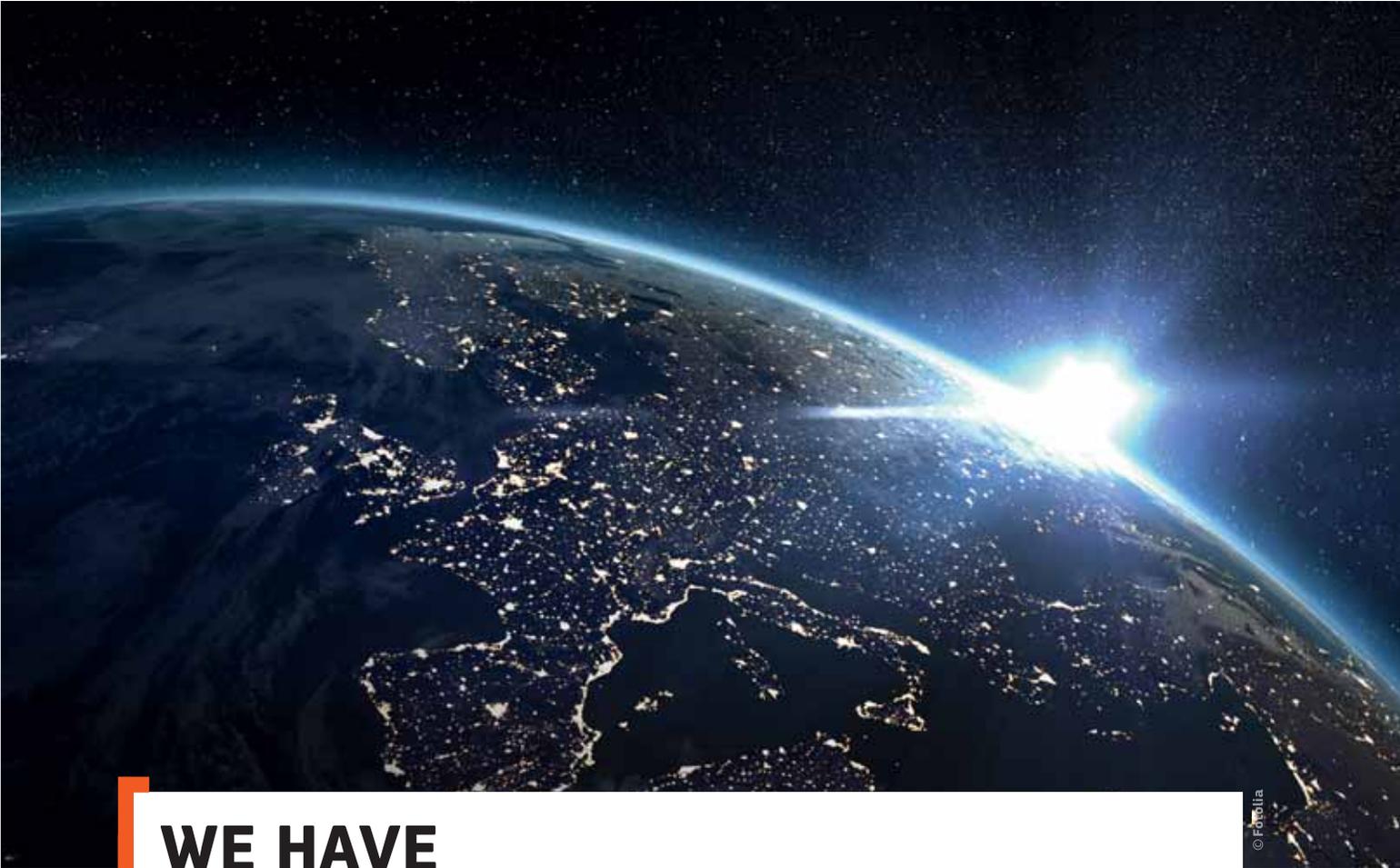
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WE HAVE THE POWER

by **Antony Gravili**, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, CEND

From space, Europe at night is an impressive sight. Humming with energy and industry, it sparkles in the darkness as great chains of light connect its cities and coastlines. In the clear light of day however, the picture is less pretty. Pollution, energy insecurity, inefficiency and waste, and rising costs are all issues that Europe must grapple with if it wants to keep the lights on and meet its climate change commitments.

The new Clean Energy for All Europeans proposals aim to do just that, and this month we take a close look at all aspects of this ambitious package. Vice-President Šefčovič and Commissioner Cañete explain how it will deliver the vision for an Energy Union, and why it is important for the Commission's other priorities, too. We also examine the implications for consumers, energy efficiency and renewables, infrastructure, innovation, diplomacy and the Paris climate change targets.

Staying in the stratosphere, we have details on the new European Space Strategy – a different source of power for growth and jobs. And back on terra firma, the Maltese Ambassador takes time out from a busy Council Presidency to outline what she would like to achieve.

Caring for others takes centre stage as we shine a spotlight on the new European Solidarity Corps, hear tales of courage from the Cancer Support group, and learn from a colleague who has opened her home to vulnerable children. And the mail service highlights some of the weird and wonderful things they have to deal with every day.

Finally, architecture fans in Brussels will be pleased to learn about a new annual festival that promotes one of the capital's greatest selling points: its rich heritage of Art Nouveau and Art Deco buildings. ■

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Ascensão



REGARDS

“

Let us resolve to put peace first. Let us make 2017 a year in which we all – citizens, governments, leaders – strive to overcome our differences.

Former Portuguese Prime Minister António Guterres on his first day as UN Secretary-General

► <http://bit.ly/2hGdX6d>



“

Malta may be a small country, but it is a country with great ambitions...I know by experience that the Presidencies of smaller countries are by far more successful than those of bigger states in the EU.

President Juncker at the Opening Ceremony of the Maltese Presidency

► <http://europa.eu/!qy34Ty>



“

Services represent two-thirds of the EU economy and generate 90% of new jobs. But the Single Market – this jewel that is all too often taken for granted – does not function properly for services.

Elżbieta Bieńkowska, launching a package of measures to ensure a services economy that works for Europeans

► <http://europa.eu/!uw67DM>



“

Pursuing protectionism is like locking oneself in a dark room: while wind and rain may be kept outside, so are light and air.

President Xi Jinping, at the first ever appearance of a Chinese Head of State at the World Economic Forum in Davos

► <http://bit.ly/2jAqerL>

The new Europa building starts hosting summits

The new Europa building has started hosting Council meetings. The Foreign Affairs Council on 16 January was the first ever held in the new premises, which became fully operational at the beginning of 2017 and from now on will be the main seat of the Council of the EU and European Council. President Tusk and his team have moved to the new building, which will also be used by the national delegations. Most of the staff are staying at the old Justus Lipsius building, where most of the General Secretariat departments remain. Lower level meetings will also continue to be held there.

The new Europa building retains the historical part of the Residence Palace and builds onto it. The newly created lantern-shaped space, most visible when lit, is surrounded by a glass cube. A patchwork of restored wooden window frames echo those in the old, Art Deco part of the building. All the windows in the new façade are different but made of oak or similar tree species, thus representing the EU motto 'united in diversity'. Built from recycled materials, they show a commitment to the environment while paying homage to European craftsmanship. ■

► <http://europa.eu/!Qc48Mq>



Tajani, new President of the European Parliament

Italian MEP Antonio Tajani will lead the European Parliament for the next two and a half years. The candidate of the European People's Party was elected after four rounds of voting over 12 hours with the support of 351 MEPs, against 282 for the Socialists & Democrats candidate Gianni Pittella.

In the first three ballots, no candidate was able to secure the necessary majority. Tajani had the support of ALDE, whose candidate Guy Verhofstadt withdrew before the beginning of the election.

"The President of the Parliament cannot have a personal programme. My programme is that decided by the Parliament, fruit of the inter-institutional agreement with the Commission and the Council," said Tajani after his election. *"We need a good speaker working for everybody,"* he added.

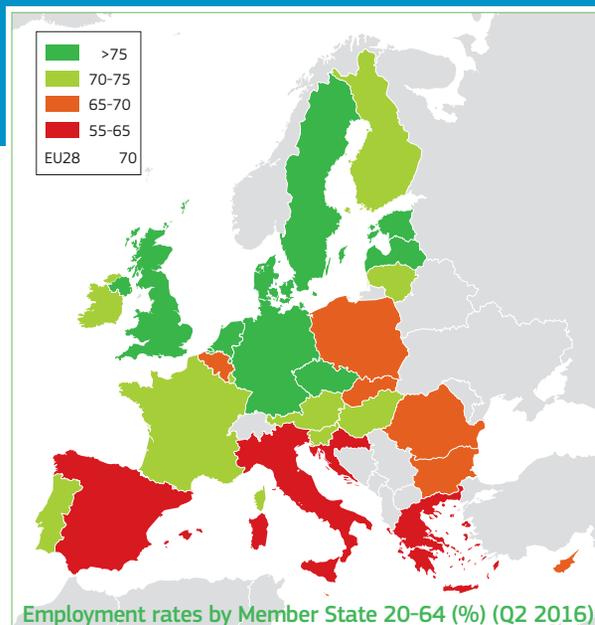
One of the founders of former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's party, Forza Italia, Tajani was elected as Member of the European Parliament in 1994. After three terms, in 2008 he joined the European Commission, first as Commissioner for Transport and later, for Industry and Entrepreneurship. In 2014, he returned to the Parliament, where he served as Vice-President. He now becomes the 30th President of the institution. ■

► <http://europa.eu/!Yu94Mn>

SYSPER extended to other EU institutions and bodies

Irene Souka, Director-General for DG HR and William Shapcott, Director-General of the Administration of the General Secretariat of the Council, have signed a Service-Level Agreement (SLA) concerning the provision of SYSPER services. The Council expects to gradually introduce SYSPER over the next two to three years.

SYSPER, the Human Resources IT application, was developed in house by the Commission and it is already in use in the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors, the two Committees, the EEAS and a large number of Executive Agencies as well. This new agreement was preceded by a similar SLA with the European Ombudsman in September 2016. Since January 2017, 27 regulatory agencies have also signed an SLA for the provision of SYSPER. In total 44 EU institutions and bodies are expected to actively use SYSPER by 2019, covering a total of 18,000 staff. This is in line with the efforts to implement synergies and efficiencies, as it will result in economies of scale and greater consistency across the institutions. While DIGIT is the tool's supplier and handles its technical application, DG HR as system owner provides support to business units and users via a dedicated SYSPER team. ■



More jobs, less poverty in Europe

The latest annual review of Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) highlights the rising trend in employment, which has contributed to pushing back poverty. In 2015, around three million jobs were created, most of them permanent, while the share of population at risk of poverty and social exclusion went down to 23.7%, the lowest in five years.

Despite these encouraging signs, unemployment remains high, with huge disparities across Member States. The report shows how difficult it has been to return to work after the crisis, with only one in eight jobseekers able to find a permanent full-time job within three years. Youth unemployment continues to be a major concern.

The review also looks into the digitalisation of the economy and the integration of refugees in the labour market. It stresses the importance of investing in ICT skills to reap the full benefits of digitalisation, as well as in the education and language training of refugees. The ESDE review examines the latest employment and social trends, and reflects on upcoming challenges. It is the Commission's main report providing evidence and analysis in these fields, in order to inform possible policy responses. ■

► <http://europa.eu/vm94uB>

More transparency for tax rulings

Last month, new rules entered into force to ensure that Member States have all the information they need on tax rulings given to multinational companies in other EU countries. From now on, national authorities are obliged to automatically exchange information on all new cross-border tax rulings that they issue. This will be done through a central depository.

"We have a duty to make corporate taxation fairer and more transparent and to use every means possible to block tax abuse and profit shifting," Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs Pierre Moscovici said about the new compulsory exchange. *"It equips Member States and their national tax administrations with the information they need to detect certain abusive tax practices and take the necessary action in response."*

Every six months, national tax authorities will have to send a report to the central depository, listing all the cross-border tax rulings that they have issued. The first exchange should take place by 1 September 2017 at the latest.

By 1 January 2018, Member States will also have to provide the same information for all cross-border rulings issued since the beginning of 2012. ■

► <http://europa.eu/!Hb97wg>



Europeana's Top Searches in 2016

Europeana, Europe's multimedia online library driven by the Commission and launched in 2008, has revealed its most popular searches in 2016. And the winners are:

01. Art Nouveau posters
02. William Morris
03. Paris
04. Dermatoglyphics
05. Botticelli
06. Hokusai
07. Europeana 280
08. *Trachyspermum copticum*
09. Edvard Munch
10. Cat
11. Alphonse Mucha
12. Leonardo Da Vinci
13. Cupid
14. Henri Toulouse-Lautrec
15. Vojtěch Preissig
16. Stained glass
17. Picasso
18. Genazzano
19. Tretyakow Gallery
20. Wagner

If you are among the lovers of Art Nouveau, don't miss our article in the Freizeit section (page 56). ■

► <http://www.europeana.eu/portal/en>



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MALTESE PRESIDENCY FOCUS ON CITIZENS

by Michael Scheerer, CEND

The Maltese Presidency follows a stormy year in politics. Valletta's Ambassador to the EU, Marlene Bonnici, tells *Commission en direct* what Malta will do to steer the EU towards calmer waters.

What are the priorities of the Maltese Presidency?

The Maltese Presidency is focused on a single denominator: bringing about results which have a tangible impact on citizens, while also focusing on policies which people care about. This was the rationale driving the selection of our six priorities – Migration, the Single Market, the European Neighbourhood, Social Inclusion, Security and the Maritime sector.

Within this context, we want to be as pragmatic as possible; focusing on the important things which will improve the daily lives of citizens. More broadly, Malta will draw on its historical and geographic credentials as a bridge-builder in order to seek the best possible compromises, both amongst Member States as well as with the European Parliament. At the same time, we will not settle for toothless agreements. We all want to improve the livelihood and fulfil the ambitions of our citizens, so there is never a reason to settle for mediocrity.

What challenges do you anticipate?

There are many well-known sectoral challenges when it comes to the various files on the legislative agenda of the EU, but in most cases they boil down to a single

factor, namely the disillusionment of citizens with the European project. As Prime Minister Joseph Muscat has stated, this is due to a disconnect between the establishment and the concerns and questions which our citizens have.

As we have seen over recent years, this disconnect has left a vacuum in Europe's political environment which extremist and populist movements have been more than happy to fill. Put bluntly, people are fed up with the current system; they do not get the answers they want from the EU. All too often we blame people for not being interested in the achievements of the EU or the benefits which EU legislation brings to our citizens. This is the wrong attitude. We, as co-legislators, must address the priorities of our citizens; not the other way around. This is especially true as we carry forward the debate on the future direction of the European project.

Given recent events some say it is important to restore trust in the EU. What must be done in this respect?

The key is to identify, first and foremost, what the questions and concerns of our citizens actually are. We can-



We want to be as pragmatic as possible; focusing on the important things which will improve the daily lives of citizens

not make assumptions. The narrative of our Presidency focuses solely on putting the citizen at the centre of the EU, and is why we have adopted the motif of 'reUnion' when summarising this goal.

The Maltese Presidency is focusing its legislative work on those proposals which have the most impact on citizens and businesses; the ones which will bring the most tangible benefits to their daily lives. Amongst many, I would note in particular the proposals which aim towards the development of the Digital Single Market, an area in which citizens will feel a real improvement.

Of course, this legislative work is only part of it. In keeping with our focus on citizens, the Maltese Presidency will place an impetus on political discussions on how best the EU can provide answers to the questions and concerns of people, notably at the Malta Summit on 3 February.

Migration has been a Maltese concern for a long time. What progress would you like to see under your Presidency?

Migration is indeed a central priority of our Presidency and we are devoting a great deal of resources into making effective progress at the Council to establish long-term and sustainable solutions. We are committed to a comprehensive approach, which can only be possible if we all collaborate together in a spirit of compromise. Without getting into the details of the many individual files, which are outlined in our work programme, it is important to highlight that such a comprehensive approach necessitates concurrent efforts in all four of the following areas: asylum, external border management, external dimension of migration, and legal migration. All are equally important. We would like to frame the discussions on migration within this comprehensive framework. The external dimension is as important as the internal and we need to engage more actively with our partners.

There is no silver bullet to solving the challenges of migration, and the Maltese Presidency is under no illusion that we are going to close all the files during our six months, also because we are all aware that some issues are very divisive on a political level.

Our goal is to endeavour to seek compromises which are acceptable to all Member States, while always keeping our eye on the ball in terms of ensuring that the resulting progress is meaningful. At times, this will require creative thinking and we are ready to draw on our extensive first-hand experience in this sector to come up with such solutions.

Ultimately, if there is a coming together of political thought by all Member States on how to implement the recognised need to change the *status quo*, matched by compromises on a technical level, I think that it will be a significant success for our Presidency.

As an island nation, how important is maritime policy for your Presidency?

As you rightly point out, the maritime sector is very important to Malta due to our geographic realities. More importantly within the context of our Presidency, however, is the fact that this sector is important to the entire EU which is bordered by the sea in three directions. This is why we have identified it as one of our six priorities.

The EU will be increasingly dependent on the seas and oceans in the future. So the sustainability and continuing development of the maritime sector, under the EU Integrated Maritime Policy, is key. In addition, the sector provides a diverse spectrum of innovative research and commercial activities that could be developed into high value-added job opportunities in line with the Blue Growth Initiative, and this – to return to our focus on citizens – is of the utmost importance. ■

Maltese Presidency
► <https://www.eu2017.mt>



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EUROPEAN SPACE STRATEGY FUELLING GROWTH AND JOBS

by Magdalena Sobkowiak, DG GROW

2016 was a year of big space challenges and achievements in the Commission. In October we announced the Space Strategy for Europe. In November another four satellites were launched to join the Galileo constellation, thanks to which we were able to announce Galileo Initial Services in December.

As Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska said about the new Space Strategy for Europe: this is our plan for the coming years, we have chosen this path and we will stick to it. We are now ready for the next step: an infrastructure in space is already built and now we want to make it work for Europeans here on Earth. That is why the Space Strategy for Europe sets out ways to maximize the benefits of space for the EU economy and for society. The data and services coming from our Galileo and Copernicus satellites open the door to a new world of space solutions.

Space solutions mean new business opportunities, more accurate positioning and faster help during natural disasters, as well as a rich new source of data to help us understand climate change, its causes and effects. Some ask why a space strategy is needed. The answer is simple: space has become essential to our daily lives and it is becoming more and more important. The Commission wants to improve the lives of citizens by exploiting space technologies, whether we are helping them feel safe at home or providing the inspiration to create new businesses.

Some solutions are already part of daily life: data which we get from space is used by farmers, aircraft can land in bad weather conditions because of guidance from space, and satellites can synchronise financial transactions. Space solutions are all around us in our mobile phones, computers or cars.

One of the most important benefits is using data from our earth observation satellites to help rescuers. This has already happened, after the earthquakes in Italy, and we have also helped people around the world, for example after typhoons in the Philippines. Frontex has used Copernicus data to help to save lives at sea and one of the Galileo Initial Services is search and rescue, pinpointing people in distress wherever they may be.

The Commission has two main EU space programmes: Copernicus - a leading provider of Earth observation data across the globe; and Galileo - Europe's own global satellite navigation system which you might think of as the European, but more accurate, GPS.

The Copernicus programme is harvesting huge volumes of data and will continue to develop new capabilities as new types of satellites are launched.

Space solutions are all around you



Copernicus data is free and accessible to everybody, so the Commission's aim in the coming years is to spread the news about business opportunities arising from space.

Despite the fact there are already outstanding examples of companies which use Copernicus data to make their businesses run, there are still huge potential areas of application, which are far from fully exploited. This is a perfect example of what the EU can do. By working together, we are helping each other and creating resources – in this case knowledge – that will benefit us all.

New platform

There are actions in the Space Strategy for Europe which will make it much easier to use the huge volumes of data held in the Copernicus database. The new Copernicus Platform, providing the computer power to match the vast data flows, is planned for the coming years. By providing a platform for innovation without the need to invest in high capacity IT infrastructure, these facilities will fuel a new generation of knowledge entrepreneurs. The new space-based economy here on Earth will help us reach our main goal, which is providing jobs and increasing prosperity. Here in DG GROW, we know that space is part of our future.

Galileo has just become operational as the Initial Services came on stream. The big moment took place on 15 December. The announcement of Initial Services means that anybody with a Galileo-enabled device can already test the signal. Galileo will offer a more accurate positioning than GPS and will make Europe independent in terms of satellite systems.

Europe has a world-class space sector, which has captured one-third of open world markets. Nevertheless, the sector is facing a growing number of challenges and disruptive evolutions that require action at the European level. The Space Strategy for Europe sets out a holistic approach for the next 15-20 years which will help us to cope with these challenges. It lays down a framework for future developments. The Commission will also continue to support European companies seeking access to global markets. We can support industry because we as the EU are the largest European institutional customer for satellite launchers. In the coming years we plan to launch more than 30 satellites for the Galileo and Copernicus programmes. We provide critical mass to ensure a viable future for the European launcher industry. The most recent launch took place in November; it was the first launch using the European-built launcher Ariane (see Cend #36). What is very important and what we are achieving with this strategy is for Europe to have guaranteed autonomous access to space. No other region or power will be able to limit our ambitions there. Through the operations included in the strategy we want to keep our space industry innovative and competitive.

Space solutions are not only about conquering Mars or rebelling against the Empire. They are about the future of our economy, science and even the security of European citizens. We could say give space some space, and make our new Space Strategy for Europe a success. ■

Space Strategy for Europe
► <http://europa.eu/!qQ99NJ>

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

YOUNG PEOPLE STEP UP



EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS

by Óscar Güell Elías, CEND

President Juncker, in his last State of the Union speech, announced the creation of the European Solidarity Corps, an initiative that “*will create opportunities for young people willing to make a meaningful contribution to society and help show solidarity – something the world and our European Union needs more of.*” Three months later the programme was launched and already thousands of people have registered.

Last December the Commission launched the European Solidarity Corps, a scheme to allow young people to work or volunteer in solidarity activities across Europe. In less than one week over 10,000 people registered. At the time of going to press, there were around 20,000. The organisations that will host the volunteers - public authorities, NGOs and companies - will have access to the profiles of candidates soon, and the first placements will take place in spring.

Participants have to be aged between 17 and 30, and once registered they enter a pool from which organisations can select them to work on projects for a period of 2 to 12 months. The activities they carry out can be broad in nature but always framed by the values of solidarity, and respect for human dignity and human rights. They can cover areas such as education, health, social integration, assistance in the provision of food, shelter construction, reception, support and integration of migrants and refugees, environmental protection or prevention of natural disasters.

In addition to their important contribution to society, young people will also live an invaluable human experience and acquire important skills at the start of their career.

Participants can get involved in two complementary strands: volunteering or occupational activities. Volunteers will not receive payment for the work they do, but their travel costs, accommodation, meals, medical insurance and pocket money will be generally covered. People engaged in the occupational strand will have the opportunity of a job, traineeship or apprenticeship with an employment contract.

The scheme builds on existing EU professional and volunteering programmes for youth so does not require



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new funding. The costs will be covered under structures such as the European Voluntary Service and the Youth Guarantee Scheme.

The corps fits in with the commitment to fighting youth unemployment agreed by the Heads of State and Government of the Member States at the Bratislava Summit in September 2016. With around 4.2 million citizens under 25 without a job in Europe, this initiative will help to introduce younger generations into the labour market. More than 100,000 participants are expected by the end of 2020. ■

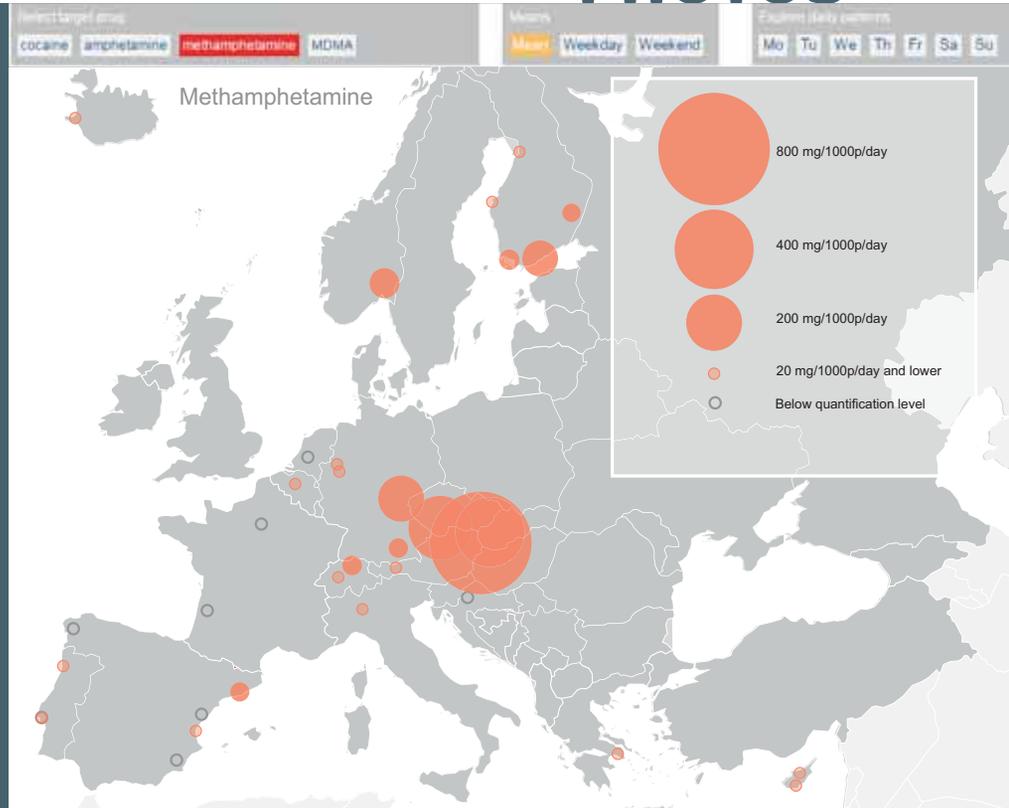
European Solidarity Corps

► https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en

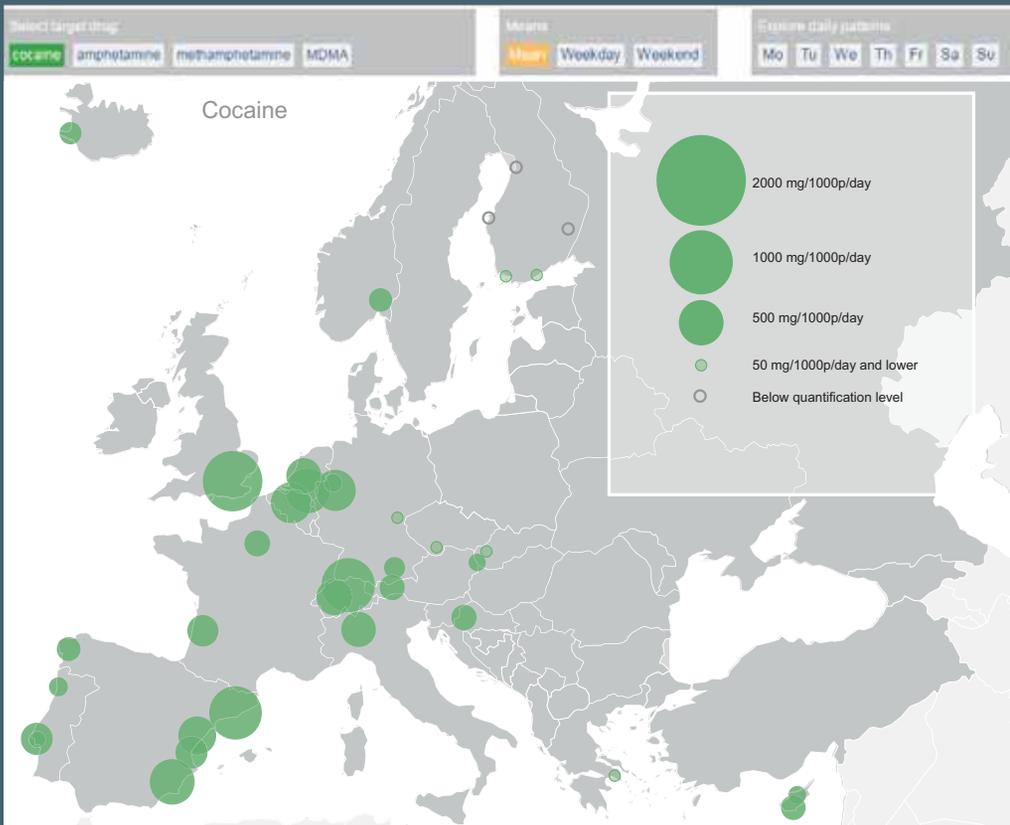
Wastewater analysis reveals drug use across Europe

Latest findings from the emerging science of wastewater analysis point towards the drug-taking habits of European citizens. The Sewage Analysis CORe group Europe (SCORE), in association with the EU drug monitoring agency (EMCDDA), has released the results of their project through an innovative interactive map and chart-based tool, which allows the user to examine different geographical and temporal patterns.

The study, which looked at over 50 different European cities in 18 countries, analysed daily wastewater samples in the catchment areas of wastewater treatment plants over a one-week period



► Weekly average methamphetamine consumption across European cities.



► Weekly average cocaine consumption across European cities.

in March 2016. While the SCORE group has been carrying out such monitoring campaigns since 2011, this is the first time that data are published within only a few months of the campaign, underlining the potential of this method for the timely monitoring of trends in illicit drug use at population level.

Wastewater-based epidemiology is a rapidly developing scientific discipline with the potential for monitoring near-real-time, population-level trends in illicit drug use. By sampling a known source of wastewater, such as a sewage influent to a wastewater treatment plant, scientists can now estimate the quantity of drugs used in a community by measuring the levels of illicit drugs and their metabolites excreted in urine. ■

Interactive tool

► <http://europa.eu/vr98KD>



Les médaillés 2016 à l'honneur

C'est en recevant une médaille que les membres du personnel ayant accompli 20 ans de service sont remerciés, chaque année, pour leur engagement au service de l'institution. En 2016, 886 médailles ont été remises lors de cérémonies organisées par les DG.

À Bruxelles la cérémonie a eu lieu le 6 décembre 2016, en présence du président Jean-Claude Juncker, de la vice-présidente Kristalina Georgieva, et de plus de 1.400 personnes - les médaillés et leurs invités. Les commissaires, directeurs généraux ainsi que les directeurs des ressources humaines étaient également présents.

Après avoir présenté les grandes étapes de la construction européenne au cours des 20 dernières années, le président Juncker a rappelé les principaux défis du futur. La vice-présidente Georgieva quant à elle, a remercié les membres du personnel au nom de la Commission pour leur engagement et leur professionnalisme. Le président a ensuite pu féliciter les médaillés en personne, lors d'une séance de photo par DG.

À Luxembourg, 260 médailles ont été décernées cette année. La vice-présidente Kristalina Georgieva a ouvert une cérémonie rassemblant le personnel de 11 directions générales et des offices, leurs invités et les représentants de leur hiérarchie. Et à Luxembourg comme à Bruxelles, un cocktail a clôturé la soirée dans une ambiance festive et musicale. ■





FROM ERASMUS TO ERASMUS+ 30 YEARS OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

by Vanessa Debiais-Sainton, DG EAC

In 1987 the European Union launched the Erasmus programme, a scheme for student exchanges that was an instant success and has transformed higher education. To celebrate the 30th anniversary of this milestone of European integration, numerous events will be organised all across Europe throughout 2017.

Thirty years ago, crossing borders to study was the exception – now it is the norm. ‘Doing an Erasmus’ has become a tried and trusted way for young Europeans to enhance their knowledge, skills and confidence.

The Erasmus programme was adopted after six years of pilot exchanges. It began with 11 countries. At first, just 3,000 students went abroad to study. Today, about 300,000 participate every year and Erasmus is widely recognised as one of the most successful programmes of the European Union.

Erasmus is an acronym for *European Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students*, but it is also - and not by chance - the name of the philosopher, theologian and humanist Erasmus of Rotterdam (1465-1536) who, by bequeathing his fortune to the University of Basel, provided one of the first sources of funding for international student exchanges.

At the outset the programme targeted only higher education students, but since then it has grown significantly. In 2014 it changed its name to Erasmus+

to combine all initiatives in the field of education, training, youth and sport under the same label. Thus, projects like the European Voluntary Service, Leonardo da Vinci, Comenius, Grundtvig, Jean Monnet, Erasmus Mundus, Alpha, Edulink Youth in Action and Sport now belong to Erasmus+. It is a programme open to a wide range of European citizens from all backgrounds - such as students in vocational training and apprentices, volunteers and youth workers, teachers, youth trainers and other education staff.

The number of programme countries has risen to 33: the 28 Member States of the European Union plus the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey.

A big impact...

Erasmus has contributed to generating a European identity and fostering the idea of the European Union as a space of coexistence, forging common values among young people for several generations. According to some surveys carried out among the partici-

Former Erasmus students

Non-mobile students



pants, 83% of mobile higher education students report a heightened sense of European citizenship after going abroad. While only 30% of young people in general voted in the 2014 European Parliament elections, the participation rate surpassed 80% among mobile higher education students. Young people with international experience also tend to have a more positive view of the EU than young people in general.

International mobility brings people from different backgrounds together and boosts intercultural exchange. The Erasmus Impact Study found that exchange students are far more likely to have transnational relations, with one in three Erasmus+ alumni having a life partner with a different nationality.

But Erasmus+ is not only about openness to other cultures, it is also a great opportunity to increase employability. In times of high youth unemployment, an experience abroad can be the springboard for a successful career. Mobile higher education students are twice as likely to have found a job one year after graduation compared to their non-mobile peers. 64% of employers think international experience is important when they recruit employees, and the same percentage say graduates with an international background are given greater professional responsibility.

Throughout its three decades of history, more than 9 million people have benefited from the learning opportunities of Erasmus: 4.4 million of them higher education students, 1.8 million education staff and youth workers, 1.4 million participants in youth exchanges, 1.3 million vocational training learners, 100,000 European Volunteers and 100,000 Erasmus Mundus students and staff. The budget of the programme for the period 2014-2020 is €14.7 billion.

Anniversary celebrations

To celebrate the 30 years of this iconic programme, there will be conferences, forums, dialogues, celebrations, debates, and exhibitions all over Europe. The kick-off event took place on 26 January in the Parliamentarium, but the celebrations will continue throughout the year. The main focus of events will be around 17 June, the day on which the programme was adopted 30 years ago. That week will see activities in several European cities. A new Erasmus+ app to support the mobility of students, apprentices and volunteers will also be presented in June.

From February onwards, each month will be dedicated to a theme linked to key concerns faced by Europeans. February's theme is social integration and inclusion - including support for refugees - and it will be presented through different events, projects and stories on the anniversary website (see link below). Other monthly topics will be the free movement of European citizens, youth employability and active citizenship, for example.

The celebration of the 30th anniversary is led by DG EAC in close cooperation with DG COMM, but more than 14 DGs will contribute to it in different stages. The Commission Representations in Member States are involved as well and will organise national events together with Erasmus+ National Agencies. It is a collective effort at every level, also involving Commission delegations. Alumni in the College have recorded videos. The High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini, for example, talks about her Erasmus experience in Aix-en-Provence in 1997. *"I remember that it was my first real taste of independence,"* she recalls. ■

30 years of Erasmus+

► <http://ec.europa.eu/erasmus30>



© Fotolia

THE JOINT UNDERTAKINGS DRIVING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

by Nathalie Paulger, CEND

Set up for the efficient execution of the European Union research policy, the ‘Joint Undertakings’ (JUs) make up an important part of the growing number of EU bodies involved in the implementation of EU policies and the EU budget. *Commission en direct* takes a look at some of these partnerships, how they work and what they have achieved.

Created by Council Decisions, JUs are independent legal entities with a dedicated budget and staff, tasked with the efficient execution of EU research, technological development and other programmes. Most JUs include a Governing Board, an Executive Director as well as other bodies, including advisory ones, depending on the specific operational and governance needs. They are financed in part through the EU budget, and in part through contributions by the public sector, private sector or both. There are different types of JUs and their model is established to answer specific needs.

Like the Executive Agencies (see Cend#36), they have been a great success overall, and many have recently seen their mandate extended. Their ways of operating and their sectors of activity are truly diverse and include key areas such as: railway, innovative medicines, aeronautics, bio-based industries, fuel cells and hydrogen, innovation capacity, fusion energy, and electronics.

Here are just some examples of JUs:

- The European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP): set up in 2003 as a European response to the global health crisis of poverty-related diseases, the EDCTP is a public-public partnership between the Commission, countries in Europe, and countries in sub-Saharan Africa. It aims to accelerate the development of new or improved drugs, vaccines, microbicides and diagnostics against HIV/

AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as well as other neglected infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa.

- The Joint Technology Initiative on Electronic Components and Systems for European Leadership (ECSEL) was set up in 2014 and replaced the former ENIAC and ARTEMIS Joint Undertakings. It aims to enable European industries at large to design, manufacture and use the most innovative technologies in electronic components and systems.
- The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT): set up in 2008, the EIT brings together universities, research labs and businesses to form unique partnerships known as ‘Knowledge and Innovation Communities’ or ‘KICS’. The KICS, spread across Europe, work to develop innovative products and services, start new companies, and train a new generation of entrepreneurs. So far, there are six KICS, each focused on a different societal challenge, from climate change mitigation to active ageing.

Over the next two pages, we take a closer look at two JUs in particular: SESAR, at 10 years of age the oldest one still in business, and the very newest one, Shift2Rail. ■

EDCTP

► <http://www.edctp.org/>

ECSEL

► <http://www.ecsel-ju.eu/>

EIT

► <https://eit.europa.eu/>



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SESAR JU MODERNISING EUROPE'S SKIES

by Florian Guillermet, SESAR JU

We may not give it a second thought but without air traffic management, or ATM, air travel would be impossible. The airspace above our heads is just like a network of motorways. And the job of ATM is to manage these motorways so that citizens and goods can move from A to B as smoothly and safely as possible. But Europe's ATM system is running on ageing technology and needs updating so that it can handle expected traffic growth more efficiently in the coming years. This is where the Single European Sky ATM Research (SESAR) project comes in.

Established in 2004, SESAR is the technological pillar of the EU's Single European Sky initiative. It aims to enhance the performance of European ATM by doubling current capacity while improving safety by a factor of four, reducing departure delays by 30%, reducing airline costs by 40% and cutting air transport's impact on the environment by 10% per flight. The project does so by defining, developing and then deploying new technologies and procedures (solutions) that will improve the way Europe's airspace is managed.

In 2007, the SESAR Joint Undertaking was established as a public-private partnership to carry out the definition and research and innovation activities of SESAR. With a budget of €2.1 billion for the period 2007-2016, the partnership has brought together more than 3,000 experts and representatives from airlines and airports, as well as the manufacturing industry, public authorities, the military, and research centres and universities. Together, the SESAR JU and its members have conducted more than 350 tests and 30,000 flight trials to fast track the delivery of over 90 industrial prototypes and 60 new or improved ATM solutions.

As indicated in the European aviation strategy, SESAR's progress in delivering innovation is regarded as a key enabler for the growth of Europe's aviation industry. This innovation is now paying off as deployment of SESAR solutions gets underway across Europe, promising approximately €12.1 billion worth of performance gains for the aviation industry alone. That's good news for passengers, who for an average trip taken in Europe, will see their door-to-door travel time cut by 20 minutes, their ticket cost cut by €15, and fuel used cut by 10kg. SESAR also supports Europe's role as a world leader in aviation, since the solutions are globally interoperable and contribute to the harmonisation efforts of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

In 2016, the SESAR JU launched SESAR 2020, the next wave of research and innovation activities. With a budget of €1.6 billion, SESAR 2020 will continue to modernise Europe's skies, focusing on solutions that allow greater automation and digitisation, while tackling emerging challenges such as the integration of drones and cyber security. ■

SESAR JU

► www.sesarju.eu

SHIFT2RAIL JU

BOOSTING THE EUROPEAN RAIL INDUSTRY

by Carlo Borghini, S2R JU

Boosting research and innovation in the railway sector is behind the creation of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking. Faced with increasing challenges on quality, costs and services, the rail industry will benefit from a public-private partnership to support grants in six specific areas.

The newest of the Joint Undertakings, Shift2Rail (S2R) was established in June 2014 with a total budget of €920 million. It awarded its first grants in the rail transport sector, amounting to €167 million, over 36 months - co-funded up to €88 million through the Horizon 2020 programme. These projects are already operational.

The S2R JU programme has three ambitious key targets - cut railway transport life-cycle costs by 50%, double railway capacity and increase reliability by 50%. S2R JU provides a unique platform for key players from the European railway sector to work together to drive innovation in the years to come, by implementing a comprehensive and coordinated research and innovation strategy with market-driven solutions. By accelerating the integration of new advanced technologies, S2R JU will promote the competitiveness of the European rail industry and meet the challenges of evolving mobility needs in the face of rising demand and congestion, whilst contributing to climate change targets, energy efficiency and digitalisation.

S2R research and innovation will contribute to ensuring that rail plays a new, broader role in digital multimodal passenger and freight mobility in Europe, both by addressing pressing short-term problems that drain rail business operations and resources, and by helping the industry achieve a stronger market position, in particular by supporting the creation of a Single European Railway Area.

S2R JU projects cover a variety of topics, such as developing the next generation of traction systems, new concepts and architectures for train control, monitoring and advanced brakes. Other projects focus on rail signalling, technological and operational advancement for on-board automation systems, high-capacity radio



communications systems, safe train separation systems, cyber security systems and innovative testing processes and specifics related to rail freight transport. Passenger and shipper solutions looking at improving the railway experience such as a 'one-stop shop' sale and use of tickets, comfort, reliable Wi-Fi and travel disruption assistance applications will be amongst the outcomes of research projects.

S2R JU is scaling up its activities with the increased commitment of its members and Open Calls proposing innovative solutions to be explored, tested and demonstrated in the future calls for proposals and tenders. Beyond that, with the deployment of its innovative solutions S2R JU will foster connections between people, regions, cities, and businesses, supporting the socioeconomic objectives of the Union. ■

Shift2Rail
 ▶ www.shift2rail.org

DEVENIR FAMILLE D'ACCUEIL UNE AVENTURE HUMAINE ENRICHISSANTE

par **Nathalie Paulger**, CEND

En Belgique beaucoup d'enfants se trouvent dans des situations familiales difficiles qui nécessitent leur placement dans des «familles d'accueil».
Commission en direct a rencontré Veronica Borghini de la DG HR qui, avec son mari et ses 3 enfants, a accueilli 10 enfants en 6 ans.



Que veut dire être «famille d'accueil»?

Une famille d'accueil, ça veut dire une famille, un couple, ou une personne seule, qui accueille un ou plusieurs enfant de 0 à 18 ans, qui pour une raison ou une autre, avec ou sans l'accord des parents, doivent être provisoirement retiré de leur milieu familial. Il existe plusieurs possibilités: on peut devenir famille d'accueil d'urgence (séjour de l'enfant de maximum 45 jours), à court, moyen ou long terme (minimum 1 an d'accueil). Et dans certains cas l'enfant accueilli a pu être adopté. La famille d'accueil peut définir ses critères de préférence: âge, sexe, religion, etc., et dans tous les cas, elle a toujours le droit de dire non le moment venu.

Parlez-nous un peu de votre expérience...

Je me suis toujours engagée dans les actions en faveur des enfants en difficulté et, 2 ans après la naissance de mon premier enfant, nous avons décidé de tenter l'expérience. Nous avons choisi d'être famille d'accueil d'urgence, généralement pour les bébés, car moins de personnes se portent volontaires étant donné qu'il faut être plus disponible pour les accueillir. Il y a bien évidemment quelques critères à remplir pour devenir famille d'accueil et nous sommes passés par 4 ou 5 étapes auparavant, comme la rencontre avec les assistants sociaux du service de placement familial. Être famille d'accueil d'urgence veut dire que l'enfant arrive souvent dans les 48h suivant un coup de téléphone du service qui explique la situation de l'enfant, et nous demande si l'on souhaite l'accueillir. Généralement, comme ce sont des placements d'urgence, nous n'avons plus de nouvelles de l'enfant une fois qu'il est parti, mais c'est différent lorsque la période d'accueil est plus longue.



Quels sont les défis? Les joies?

Les enfants qui sont placés en famille d'accueil ont vécu des 'ruptures' dans leur vie, ils peuvent être perturbés émotionnellement. Mais avec un peu d'amour, de réconfort, ils peuvent vite se calmer. Nous n'avons jamais eu de mauvaise expérience. Le sourire d'un enfant me remplit de joie même si j'ai dû me lever à 3h du matin. C'est aussi très enrichissant de savoir qu'on a pu faire vivre à un enfant une période stable et chaleureuse, même si ça n'est que pour une courte durée.

Comment les collègues qui seraient intéressés peuvent-ils en savoir plus?

Lors de la conférence 'Devenir famille d'accueil en Belgique – tout ce qu'il faut savoir', le 9 mars (voir lien), où seront présents des membres des services de placement ainsi que des collègues qui accueillent chez eux des enfants en difficulté. Les collègues de toutes les institutions sont les bienvenus, ainsi que leur conjoint(e)s. ■

Accueil Familial d'Urgence

► <http://www.afu.be/>

Inscription à la conférence

► <http://europa.eu/!xp37ym>



► Cancer Support president Roy Edwards presents the group's work at Info Day 2016.

COPING WITH CANCER SUPPORT FOR COLLEAGUES

by María Fernández García, CEND

4 February marks World Cancer Day. For those struck down by this terrible illness, being an expat makes it even more difficult to cope. The Cancer Support Group helps colleagues when they are going through this experience or have a relative suffering from it. It also organises many activities in which you can collaborate.

The Cancer Support Group (CSG) was created in 2004 by six colleagues who had some direct personal experience with this disease. Now this self-help group has grown to some 185 members, involved in a wide programme of activities: from assistance to sick colleagues throughout the whole medical and administrative procedure, to fund raising events.

“Living abroad is not the best position if one day you get the message ‘you have cancer’, or someone dear to you, living thousands of miles away, is affected,” says the president of the group, Roy Edwards. *“People felt completely lost, not knowing any clinic or specialist in Brussels, and they felt very lonely,”* he adds. This is why the founders started the group, whose volunteers now intervene some 200 times a year on average.

The CSG has a hotline for colleagues who need help (see number below). The service is available during, and sometimes outside of, working hours. The group also helps to make appointments with specialists, to prepare for hospitalisation, and to take care of the administrative formalities with the PMO. Volunteers also

accompany patients to the clinic and support them during their convalescence.

“The strong side of the CSG is its ability to react immediately to a call for help and its privileged access to some specialised clinics, obtaining rapid appointments with oncologists,” says Edwards, who is retiring as president this month.

The group not only supports patients but also caregivers, to help them cope with the pressure of being far away. *“We noticed that more and more colleagues, especially from Eastern European countries, let their parents come over to Brussels to give them the care they sometimes lack in their home countries, or at least to get a second opinion,”* he adds.

The initiative has spread beyond Brussels. In Ispra, the CSG has been an independent association since 2013, after being an antenna of the Brussels group for many years. They organise different activities like brisk walking sessions and information campaigns. Currently, there is also interest in developing a group in Petten.



Living abroad is not the best position if one day you get the message ‘you have cancer’

Programme for 2017

The CSG is increasing its range of activities, targeting patients and caregivers but also a wider audience of colleagues interested in health and well-being. To mention a few: body coaching to release stress, equi-coaching, active listening, kundalini yoga or reiki, a Japanese relaxation technique.

The CSG also organises different fundraising activities, like cake and book sales. It receives donations from cultural entities such as Bossa Flor, a band of six artists that plays bossa nova and samba. In turn, the CSG supports other organisations working with cancer patients, like Les Amis de Bordet and Ensemble Pas à Pas, the latter helping child patients.

For this and other activities like communication, the group is always looking for volunteers, so you can also get involved! ■

CSG hotline:

► 80741

Malgorzata Miodynska



"I got tonsil cancer some eight years ago, just after I started working at DG RTD. I was 32 years old, crying in my office, when my Head of Unit Mr Zisimatos, now passed away because of cancer, told me to call Cancer Support. Roy came twenty minutes later

and found me the best surgeon in Belgium. I was alone, no boyfriend, no family in Brussels... Roy became my second father and an exceptional friend. He transferred my medical file from a local hospital, where a stupid doctor wanted to give me chemo and almost cut my neck, and this saved my life! He and other volunteers brought me to radiotherapy each day. Now we would like to create Cancer Support at the European Parliament to help people there."

Sonya Georgieva



"In 2012, at the age of 32, I was diagnosed with rectum cancer, stage 3. I was emotionally overwhelmed, but at the same time I had the burden of quickly finding the right hospital and sorting out the

administration, as it was the last month of my contract with the Commission. Fortunately, I wrote to the Cancer Support Group and they immediately contacted me. Thanks to Roy, I learned about the possibilities to be treated in Brussels and he helped me to arrange my first visit to the oncological hospital. Since then, he has been with me all along the journey. I will never forget the times he was sitting with me and my mother in front of the doctor's cabinet waiting for positive news. He was always with me when I needed his help: practical advice, encouraging words, help with the procedures, etc. Invaluable!"

Lydia Agardi



"Three years ago I learnt that my mom was diagnosed with ureteral urothelial carcinoma. It was operable, but very big. Doctors were telling me I should prepare for the worst. Luckily, the operation went very well, although she lost one kidney and

her bladder was significantly reduced. She needed and still needs regular cystoscopy check-ups. I heard about the Bordet Institute and wanted to give my mother the best care, as back in my country health care is underfunded, lacking specialists and lagging behind in diagnostics and research. I was advised by one colleague in DG REGIO that I should contact the Cancer Support Group. That's what I did eventually and, to my big surprise the president himself wrote back swiftly and offered me his assistance. Thanks to Roy my mom was given access to the best specialists and we didn't even have to wait for long! In our case, too, Roy has been very helpful, full of optimism and always supportive."



© Ana Franco

PHOTOWALKS A LUNCHTIME RENDEZ-VOUS FOR PHOTO FANS

by Óscar Güell Elías, CEND

It is common for Commission staff to enjoy sporting activities during their lunch break, but for colleagues in Luxembourg, there is now another sort of exercise on offer: **photowalks**. *Commission en direct* talked to organiser Lucie Peterkova (Eurostat) to find out more.

What is a 'photowalk' exactly? How long does it last and where do you go?

The aim of the group is to walk together to take photographs. Each photographer takes pictures of the things that interest them. We meet at lunchtime for around one hour and walk close to the Joseph Bech building, but we also plan to use public transport and go further afield. There are plenty of picturesque places in Luxembourg city.

Why did you decide to organise the photowalks?

Photography has been my hobby since my youth and I usually take photos with my friends and family. I had also walked with my camera during lunchtime on several occasions and I thought that perhaps there might be more photo enthusiasts among my colleagues who would like to join me. It's more fun to go out and take

pictures with a group. Knowledge can be shared and more advanced photographers can advise beginners.

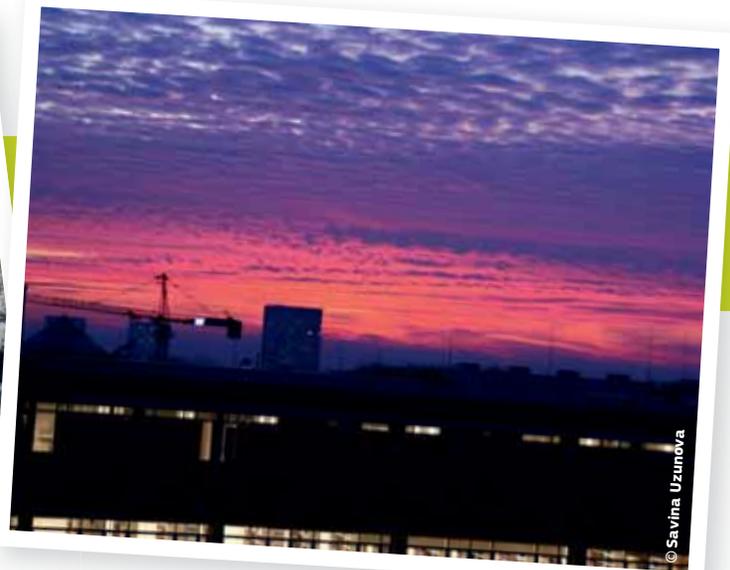
Is it open to everybody? Is it necessary to have any previous knowledge to join the group?

Anybody can join at any stage of the sessions. Of course, all walks start at the Joseph Bech building so it's easier if you work close by. Some of the participants are beginners, others are advanced photographers. It really doesn't matter what your knowledge of photography is. You just have to like it and want to share your passion. A camera with manual settings is preferable.

Anybody interested in joining can send me an email and I will share with them the common calendar we have. We also have a Yammer group (see link below) where we post all our appointments, so anybody can check our next activities there.



© Gorja Bartsch



© Savina Uzunova



© Lucie Peterkova



© Veronique Delhaxhe

How have the walks gone so far?

Very well, there are over 15 members of the group, most of them Eurostat colleagues. We began in November; we put posters in the Joseph Bech building and created the Yammer group. Our first walk was focused on autumn colours. The second one was a little bit special because we decided to take photos of the Eurostat Christmas Party. On the third one we went to the Philharmonie.

The participants are quite enthusiastic about the idea of the photowalks because they are passionate about photography but they say that they wouldn't do it alone. When you do it in group and in an organised way it is easier to find time to go out and take photos.

Are you planning to do anything with the photos you take?

For the moment, we share them in our Yammer group, but we are looking into organising an exhibition in the Joseph Bech building in the summer. One colleague also

asked us to use them for decorating our building, so we are exploring that possibility. But we have just begun, so we cannot do anything until we have more pictures.

What are your plans for the future?

To take pictures of various places in Luxembourg (Philharmonie, Grund, Trois-Glands, etc.) in different seasons. Luxembourg is not such a big city so we can take a bus and get to different locations in quite a short time. I'd also like to organise shoots on various topics (portrait, macro) or techniques (long exposure, high dynamic range)... anything really that the participants are interested in. We can also organise some lessons among ourselves, with our most experienced members teaching the beginners. ■

For more information, contact the organiser at

► Lucie.Peterkova@ec.europa.eu

Photowalking Yammer group

► <http://bit.ly/2iocHoF>



AU COURRIER CENTRAL DANS LES COULISSES DE LA DISTRIBUTION DU COURRIER

par María Fernández García, CEND

Avant que les documents n'arrivent dans votre bac à courrier, tout un travail d'équipe se met en œuvre au service du Courrier central de la Commission. Le service manipule environ 8 tonnes de courrier chaque jour, pas uniquement des lettres mais aussi des colis en tout genre, comme des œuvres d'art, des vaccins ou encore des échantillons sanguins. Commission en Direct a visité les locaux de ce service à Evre.

Le jour de notre visite au Courrier central, une énorme boîte en bois a été réceptionnée en provenance de Floride. Elle contient sans doute l'objet le plus étonnant jamais reçu par le service: un morceau de la fusée Ariane, qui a été utilisée comme lanceur d'un des satellites Galileo. Le Courrier central a coordonné le rapatriement de cette pièce depuis les plages de Floride, en vue de sa présentation lors d'une exposition préparée par la DG GROW.

On estime que le volume de courrier a diminué de moitié au cours des 12 dernières années. Vu l'évolution technologique et l'utilisation du courrier électronique, la Commission ne peut qu'encourager le développement du «paperless», source d'économie et de réduction de l'empreinte écologique.

Le Courrier central s'adapte à cette évolution et diversifie de plus en plus ses services. Selon la chef d'équipe, Catherine Gressier, le service a donc récupéré des activités qui avaient été externalisées, comme par exemple le transport et la livraison de publications ou de matériel utilisé lors d'événements organisés par les différentes DG.

L'envoi de documents papier ne disparaîtra pas complètement, indique Catherine. C'est le cas des contrats qu'il faut signer et qui sont ensuite envoyés après affranchissement. Mais en plus des lettres, le Courrier central reçoit, trie et distribue d'autres objets, y compris des œuvres d'art destinées à être exposées dans les bâtiments de la Commission, des vaccins pour le Service médical, des échantillons sanguins, des colis, des appels



Le Courrier central a reçu «*tout et n'importe quoi*»: de la nourriture pour chien... et d'autres objets privés qu'elle ne mentionne pas par discrétion

d'offres ou encore des cadeaux protocolaires. Tous ces envois sont réceptionnés sous forme de recommandés ou contre signature.

Noël est une période très chargée à cause des cadeaux protocolaires, qui s'ajoutent aux quatre mille et quelques colis rassemblés par le personnel de la Commission à l'occasion de la traditionnelle opération «shoe-box» pour les personnes sans-abri. Les cadeaux protocolaires sont réceptionnés jusqu'à début février et, si leurs destinataires y renoncent, ils sont ensuite transmis à des organisations caritatives.

Valises diplomatiques et sécurité

Le Courrier central est aussi en charge des valises diplomatiques, ces gros sacs bleus qui voyagent avec des cadenas numérotés afin d'assurer qu'ils ne soient pas ouverts pendant le voyage. Le Service européen pour l'action extérieure s'en sert pour recevoir et envoyer du courrier et de l'équipement aux délégations (antennes satellites, défibrillateurs, etc.). Un départ par délégation est organisé chaque semaine.

La sécurité est une priorité pour le Courrier central. Toute la correspondance reçue passe aux rayons X et si un courrier suspect est détecté, le service alerte la Direction Sécurité.

Le service est aussi équipé de plusieurs appareils détecteurs d'explosifs et de radioactivité, et d'un local de biosécurité, où l'on dépose tout ce qui est considéré comme potentiellement dangereux.

Tous les colis privés sont livrés à Evere

C'est justement pour des raisons de sécurité, que les colis privés ne peuvent pas être livrés dans les bureaux du personnel. Tout ce qui n'est pas en papier ou identifié comme matériel de travail (clés USB, CD, etc.) est considéré comme privé et, par conséquent, le destinataire doit venir le chercher lui-même à Evere.

D'après Catherine, au fil des années le Courrier central a reçu «*tout et n'importe quoi*»: de la nourriture pour chien, un fauteuil, une guitare et une batterie, quatre pneus d'hiver, et d'autres objets privés qu'elle ne men-

tionne pas par discrétion. Alors, faites attention ! Tout ce que vous envoyez, ou que vous vous faites envoyer au bureau passera par les rayons X à Evere.

Comme dans le cas des colis cadeaux, les colis privés sont donnés à une association caritative si les destinataires y renoncent.

Seuls quelques collègues du Courrier central ont le droit d'ouvrir la correspondance, si, par exemple, l'adresse d'une lettre n'est pas correcte. Ils ont obtenu cette habilitation auprès des autorités du pays dont ils sont ressortissants, une procédure qui peut prendre jusqu'à deux ans. Ce sont les mêmes collègues qui assurent par exemple la remise des notifications aux représentations permanentes des Etats membres ou encore d'autres documents confidentiels.

Une nouvelle organisation dès avril

Dans un souci d'efficacité, le Courrier central procède pour le moment à des changements dans son organisation interne. Pour l'instant, huit véhicules font au moins trois tournées chaque jour entre les bâtiments de la Commission. Une navette camion assure le transport des gros colis et palettes. Le courrier de chaque navette est trié par bâtiment, où les huissiers font un deuxième tri par unité.

Dorénavant le Courrier central procédera lui-même au tri par unité, de sorte que le courrier arrive aux bâtiments déjà prêt à être déposé dans les casiers. Trois DG - SANTE, BUDG et GROW - ont été les premières à mettre en place le nouveau système, qui dès avril, s'étendra à tous les bâtiments de la Commission.

Pour permettre ce changement, 35 huissiers seront transférés au Courrier central, où ils sont «*très bienvenus*», affirme Catherine. L'excellent travail fourni repose sur la contribution et la prise de responsabilité de chacun, dans un esprit d'équipe très développé. Les nouveaux collègues peuvent d'ores et déjà compter sur la bienveillance de l'équipe en place pour les accueillir en toute harmonie. ■

Courrier - Bruxelles

► <http://europa.eu/!pv76Hb>



► Moritz Röttlinger from DG GROW .

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20 YEARS OF YOUR EUROPE ADVICE A VALUABLE SOURCE OF DATA

by María Fernández García, CEND

Your Europe Advice has been informing citizens about their EU rights for the last two decades. With over 210,000 enquiries to date, the service offers a wealth of real-life cases that can be of use for law and policy making or impact assessment. And all are available in DG GROW.

First launched as the Citizens' Signpost Service, as part of the Citizens First information campaign at the end of 1996, *Your Europe Advice* provides tailor-made legal guidance to citizens and businesses in all official EU languages free of charge. The *Your Europe* website is the starting point for practical information. But when an answer to a particular question cannot be found there, a request can be submitted and a reply is guaranteed within a week.

The European Citizens Action Service operates the current contract with the Commission. It has a team of about 65 legal experts in all Member States, specialised in EU law and who have a deep knowledge of their respective national legislation and administrative procedures. On average, they reply to some 24,000 questions each year.

The enquiries must relate to concrete cases regarding personal rights deriving from EU law. The vast majority of them concern the free movement of citizens. For example, people ask about residence rights, visas or working permits for non-EU family members, cross-border and posted workers. Other frequent questions relate to social security issues, passenger rights, driving licences and registration of vehicles in different countries, to mention but a few.

Better use of the rich database

Moritz Röttlinger from DG GROW has been in charge of *Your Europe Advice* for the last seven years. "We'd like

to better exploit all the information available in our existing database that can be used by all Commission colleagues and, to a certain extent, other EU institutions," he says.

"The 210,000 real-life cases in our database illustrate the concrete situation of the Internal Market – remaining barriers, misapplication of EU law, good and bad administrative practices, but also lack of information and false, but often understandable, expectations. This can be a source of ideas for impact assessments, policy initiatives or legislative proposals," Moritz adds.

He points out that, thanks to certain requests, the Commission has been able to identify cases of misapplication of EU law, leading to infringement procedures against the Member State responsible. The existing data has also contributed to informing lawmakers. For instance, the European Parliament has extensively used *Your Europe Advice* cases for a recent study on cross-border obstacles.

Your Europe Advice can potentially also be helpful for DGs in replying to requests from citizens. "As answering such questions sometimes takes a lot of effort and time, we could offer assistance to policy DGs," Moritz says. ■

Your Europe Advice

► <http://europa.eu/youreurope/advice/>



► Above: The Betzdorf datacentre; right: Philippe Van Damme, Director for Digital Infrastructure Solutions in DG DIGIT.

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DATA CENTRE OF THE FUTURE CONSOLIDATING IT INFRASTRUCTURES

by Óscar Güell Elías, CEND

The Commission has inaugurated a new datacentre in Betzdorf, Luxembourg. Philippe Van Damme, Director for Digital Infrastructure Solutions in DG DIGIT, explains to *Commission en direct* the purpose of this world-class facility and the project to consolidate most of the Commission's datacentres.

What is a datacentre?

Datacentres house all of our information systems and the data which are stored within them. It hosts the Commission's internal systems such as e-mail, Sysper, ABAC, ARES etc., but also pan-European systems supporting the Single Market, the EU Emissions Trading System, grant management for Research and Structural Funds, DG SANTE's systems supporting health and food safety in Europe, the European Citizens' Initiative, and more.

What is the current situation regarding datacentres at the Commission?

We have five corporate datacentres - four in Luxembourg, one in Brussels - and 30 local ones, run by DGs and spread all over Commission premises. Our aim is to consolidate 80% of these small data rooms into only two corporate datacentres in Luxembourg by 2020. The new datacentre in Betzdorf will be our primary site, and Windhof the secondary one.

What is the reasoning behind this?

After the detection of asbestos in the JMO building in 2014, the Commission and the Luxembourg authorities had to rehouse Luxembourg-based Commission services and enable them to continue to operate in Luxembourg under the best conditions.

At the same time, in the context of the Synergies and Efficiencies Review, the consolidation of local datacentres has been identified as an area for improvement.

What exactly are the advantages?

There are three main advantages to consolidating our datacentres.

The first one is reliability. In small local data rooms, typically located in office buildings, air conditioning and power supplies are not as robust as they are in professional datacentres. Therefore, accidents can happen more easily – we have seen local server rooms impacted by water leaks or overheating because of air conditioning problems during a hot summer.

The second advantage is better security. In a professional datacentre the level of security before you can enter a server room is much more thorough than in a simple office building. The Betzdorf datacentre is NATO-certified, guarded 24/7 and impossible to get into without authorisation.

Last but not least, there is obviously the cost reduction. Having to equip and cool 30 small datacentres is much more expensive than doing it for two big ones at an industrial scale.

What is really special about the new Betzdorf datacentre is that it is very green. Heat generated by the equipment is naturally evacuated by environment-friendly heat exchangers, called 'Kyoto Wheels'. That means we don't need traditional air conditioning as long as the outside temperature is below 23°, which significantly reduces the carbon footprint. ■

Data Centre Consolidation

► <http://europa.eu/ky47UP>

Février 2017





DOSSIER

CLEAN ENERGY

for All Europeans



For most people, energy begins and ends with the flick of a switch – for heating, for light, to power their entertainment or favourite gadget. But behind that switch, an energy revolution is quietly taking place. Countries around the world are undergoing a clean energy transition, as they gradually shift towards low-carbon economies – and the Commission is determined to ensure that Europe leads this transition. That is the goal of the recently-adopted Clean Energy for All Europeans package. And reaching that goal means putting energy efficiency first, becoming a global leader in renewables, and making consumers active players in the energy market. Join *Commission en direct* as it takes a peek into the future.

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL EUROPEANS FIT FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION

by Antony Gravili, CEND

Towards the end of last year, the Commission adopted the Clean Energy for All Europeans package. Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President for the Energy Union, and Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, tell *Commission en direct* about the main elements of the package and what it sets out to achieve.

What is the Clean Energy for All Europeans package about?

MŠ: Roughly two years ago, we presented our Energy Union Strategy, where we laid out our clear vision on the future of Europe's energy system. With this package, we address most of the deliverables envisaged in the Energy Union, making it fit for purpose and fulfilling one of the 10 political priorities of the Juncker Commission.

As its name suggests, this package is about providing 'Clean Energy for All Europeans'. With the proposals that we have put on the table, we want to put energy efficiency first, make the EU the global leader in renewable energies, and provide a fair deal for consumers so that they can benefit from a reliable, uninterrupted and affordable supply of clean energy at all times.

How does this fit with the Commission's broader priorities?

MŠ: With the delivery of the Energy Union's objectives, we are also supporting other flagship initiatives of the Commission to deliver on investments, growth and jobs for Europe. This is why it is so important to look at this package in its entirety. It is over a thousand pages long and delivers on all five dimensions of the Energy Union: energy security, solidarity and trust; a fully integrated energy market; energy efficiency contributing to moderation of demand; decarbonising the economy; and research, innovation and competitiveness.

Beyond these five interlinked dimensions, energy policy is strongly related to a great variety of other policy priorities, such as social matters and employment, digitalization and development cooperation. This is why the package comes with an 'enabling framework' that takes stock of possible investment synergies to boost growth and jobs in the clean economy.

This sounds ambitious: how will you ensure policy coordination and coherence between the EU and Member States?

MAC: Our objectives can only be achieved through a robust governance. It will streamline the existing planning, reporting and monitoring obligations to ensure efficiency, coherence, and complementarity of objectives and policies at EU and national levels. It will also considerably reduce administrative burden, streamlining or repealing nearly 50 existing individual planning, reporting and monitoring obligations of the energy and climate acquis that were overlapping, contradictory or had their own frequency and timing.

The new governance will bring more predictability and transparency for investors through National Energy and Climate Plans that spell out national long-term visions. And it will promote the participation of Member States, consumers, producers and stakeholders at large to ensure that all objectives and targets of the Energy Union are being constantly monitored, and effectively implemented.

Why are you adopting this package now?

MAC: With the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on 4 November, we are in a completely new scenario. Energy production represents two-thirds of emissions at global level. We are undergoing a transition towards a clean and sustainable energy system that will change the ways we produce and consume energy. A change of this magnitude requires a clear and stable regulatory framework that attracts the necessary investments to achieve our 2030 energy and climate goals and to meet our Paris commitments.

The measures that we are putting forward will help Europe stay competitive in the global energy transition,

Clean energy for all Europeans



turn the Paris Agreement into concrete action and make sure that our energy system is fit for a clean and sustainable future. But the package is much more than that. It is also about investment, economic growth and jobs in Europe. By mobilising up to an additional €177 billion of investments per year, this package can create as many as 900,000 new jobs across the energy sector. It is high time for us to create the right legislative environment that unlocks our sustainable growth potential.

What are the main elements of the package?

MAC: This is the most ambitious and comprehensive energy package that the Commission has ever tabled, covering energy efficiency, renewable energy, the design of the electricity market, and a governance for the Energy Union.

First, we will abide by the principle of ‘energy efficiency first’. We have proposed a 30% EU-wide binding energy efficiency target for 2030, which compared to the current 27% target, will create 400,000 additional jobs, reduce gas imports by 12% and add €70 billion to the economy. Our proposals will also increase the efficiency of buildings, speed up renovation rates, lower

energy bills and will help to lift up to 3.2 million households out of energy poverty.

Second, our measures aim at making the EU a world leader in renewable energy, setting the right conditions for investors, empowering consumers, and making energy markets work better to integrate large amounts of renewables to help us meet our energy and climate targets. Our proposals will help us achieve a share at EU-level of at least 27% renewables in final energy consumption by 2030, by assisting Member States in the design of support schemes to achieve a more market-oriented, cost-effective, and EU-wide approach, and simplifying administrative procedures to get projects up and running.

Finally, we are proposing an overhaul of our electricity market to foster investment in clean and innovative solutions, better integrate renewables into the grid, and strengthen the price signal to drive investment in adequate and flexible capacities, including demand response and storage, and increase regional cooperation when dealing with crisis situations. ■

Clean Energy for All Europeans

► <http://europa.eu/Du77kK>

FACTS & FIGURES

Like cogs in a machine (below), the **Clean Energy for All Europeans** package is made up of many parts that link together to deliver a powerful performance. On the right, we take a closer look at what energy efficiency and renewables leadership already mean today for jobs, growth, savings and prosperity - and what the package's call to raise the energy efficiency target from 27% to 30% will mean by 2030.

But the drive to decarbonise the energy system comes from research and industry actors, too. Along the bottom of the two pages, we illustrate just some of the targets they have agreed with the EU and national governments, as part of the **Integrated Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan**.

Energy Union and Climate Action



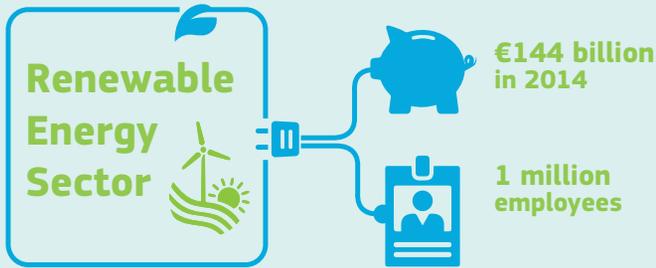
SET Plan targets

N° 1 in renewables
70 €/MWh or less for the cost of offshore wind energy by 2030

Energy efficiency in buildings
60% savings of buildings' energy consumption by 2025

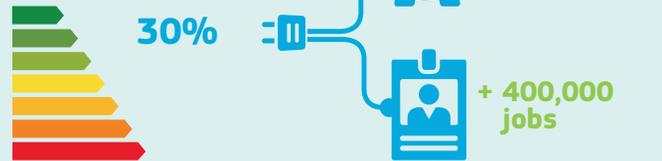
Flexible energy system
25% peak load reduction from demand-response by 2030

THE RENEWABLE ENERGY DIRECTIVE



MORE ENERGY EFFICIENCY GENERATES JOBS AND MONEY

Raising energy efficiency target from 27% to 30% by 2030 in the EU means



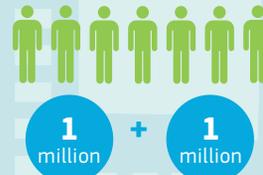
CLEAN ENERGY IS ALREADY TODAY'S GROWTH



EU's renewable energy sector created in **2014** an annual turnover of around **€144 billion**.



EU companies have a share of **30% of all patents** for renewable technologies.



1 million Europeans are employed in sectors providing energy efficiency products and services. More than **1 million** people work in the renewable energy sector.



Due to growth in renewables, the EU avoided **€18 billion** of fossil fuel imports in **2014**.

Consumers & smart cities

100 positive energy districts by 2025 and 80% of electricity consumption to be managed by consumers in 4 out of 5 households

Energy efficiency for industry

20% reduction of energy consumption for chemical, pharmaceutical and steel industries by 2025

Sustainable mobility

70% cost reduction for Li-ion batteries by 2030

FROM CUSTOMERS TO DRIVERS A FAIR DEAL FOR CONSUMERS

by Borja Guijarro Usobiaga, DG ENER

The new energy package could transform consumers from passive customers to active drivers of the energy transition. Dominique Ristori, Director-General of DG ENER, explains how.

What is at stake with the adoption of the Clean Energy for All Europeans package?

With this package, the Commission is proposing a complete revamp of our energy legislation. In 10 years our energy market will be very different from what we know today. It will be characterised by more variable and decentralised production. And it will be driven by a technological revolution that will give consumers a chance to become active players in the markets through demand response, self-production and consumption, or storage.

The Clean Energy for All Europeans package is a unique opportunity to boost economic growth and jobs while reducing CO₂ emissions. Decoupling economic growth from energy consumption and carbon emissions is already a reality in the EU, and will accelerate as a result of the new measures proposed in the package. This will create macroeconomic benefits but also benefits for each European citizen. We will ensure that consumers get a fair deal from our policies and become the real drivers of this energy transition.

What does a 'fair deal' for consumers mean?

Consumers have to be at the centre of our proposals, and they are.

First, they will get access to reliable and clear information: on their consumption - thanks to smart meters, on their energy prices - thanks to provisions on clearer bills, and on competitive offers – using certified online price comparison tools which help them make informed choices. We also propose to eliminate switching-related fees, allowing consumers to switch suppliers more easily and spur competition in the market.

Second, we will empower consumers or communities of consumers to produce, store or sell their electricity, allowing them to take advantage of the falling costs of technologies like solar power and batteries in



order to reduce their energy bills. Consumers will be able to adjust their consumption to price fluctuations resulting from variable wind and sun, and benefit from lower electricity prices.

Third, we will ensure a high level of consumer protection and sound management of consumer data. We will promote measures to guarantee that the ownership of such data ultimately rests with customers and that it is made available only with their consent. Cybersecurity in this context is a new challenge which we propose to address through further implementing rules.

Finally, we will tackle energy poverty at the root through targeted social policy and energy efficiency measures, such as insulation of social housing.

These measures will incentivise consumers' engagement with the market, help them save money on their bills, and allow them to benefit from new services that add value. ■

A fair deal for consumers: fact sheet

► <http://europa.eu/!Xf78Ud>



Investment
extra €177 billion per year
from 2021 to meet 2030
climate & energy targets



Economic growth:
1% increase in GDP,
€190 billion into the
economy, 900,000 new jobs



Decarbonisation:
Carbon intensity of the
economy 43% lower in
2030 than in 2015
72% share of non-fossil fuels
in electricity generation in 2030

INVESTMENT SUPPORTING THE ENERGY TRANSITION

by **Georges Gavanas**, DG ENER

The Energy Union is a top priority for the Commission which builds on the agreement on the 2030 energy and climate targets. In November 2016, the Paris Agreement entered into force, showing that the path to the energy transition is now irreversible. But achieving the Energy Union and a low-carbon economy poses many challenges - most notably the scale of investment needed.

It is estimated that an extra €177 billion per year of investment will be needed from 2021 onwards just to reach the 2030 goals. The EU needs to put policies and financial instruments in place that will ease this challenge. Several funding opportunities are already available: the European Energy Efficiency Fund, an innovative public-private partnership to mitigate climate change via energy efficiency and renewables; the Connecting Europe Facility for trans-European energy infrastructure projects; the European Structural Investment Funds, with a fund for energy efficiency; and the Private Finance for Energy Efficiency which is funded by the EU through the LIFE programme and implemented via the European Investment Bank (EIB).

While public funding can play a role, it is clear that the lion's share of investment will have to come through the market. Financial instruments are set to play an increasingly prominent role. They will be designed to trigger high investment rates, pool resources to finance economically viable projects and help streamline and maximise the impact of public intervention.

The Investment Plan for Europe is the Commission's tool to kick-start sustainable growth in Europe. Its cornerstone, the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) - launched by the EIB and the European

Commission - supports investment and provides financing instruments for risky operations.

With major projects in energy infrastructure - in particular interconnections, renewable energy and energy efficiency projects - the Investment Plan has allocated 33% of financing approved by the EIB to the energy sector. Related operations are expected to attract over €17 billion of additional investment in the coming years. Given its success, the Commission has recently decided to present an amending regulation, doubling the EFSI both in terms of duration and financial capacity.

Speaking at the European Parliament last summer, Vice-President Katainen said: *“By providing risk financing, the EFSI crowds in private money, which is currently resting on bank accounts. The demand for SME financing proves that there is a real market failure, which EFSI addresses.”*

Finally, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is another important strategic partner for the EU, supporting policies and objectives in a wide range of sectors. A new Memorandum of Understanding to further intensify energy cooperation between the two institutions was signed recently in London. ■

Unlocking investment in the energy transition: fact sheet
► <http://europa.eu/!Rf44vg>



© Fotolia

EU LEADING IN RENEWABLES AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

by **Lelde Kiela Vilumsone** and **Francesco Maria Graziani**, DG ENER

With the recently-published energy efficiency and renewable energy proposals for 2030 as part of the ‘Clean Energy for All Europeans’ package, Europe marked a new transition to a low-carbon economy, investment, growth and employment opportunities. Consumers are the real winners, with new opportunities to become the core of a pivotal green revolution in their daily interactions with the energy system.

World number one in renewables

President Juncker has defined the EU becoming the ‘world number one’ in renewables as one of the Commission's main political priorities. This requires a deep rethinking of the regulatory framework in order to achieve the deployment of renewables in buildings, transport and industry. While the EU still leads in terms of renewable energy investments per capita, the declining share of European investment in the renewables sector at global level in recent years requires an ambitious approach.

The demanding target in the new energy package - at least 27% of Europe's final energy consumption in 2030 will need to come from renewable sources - will represent a significant contribution to implementing the Paris Agreement as well as to reducing the EU's external energy dependency.

The proposed framework supports all renewable technologies at different readiness levels. This includes next generation technologies for wind, solar, biomass, biofuels, hydro, and others. All sectors of the energy

spectrum - electricity, heating and cooling, and transport - are addressed, to unlock their potential and create synergies across the European energy mix. New provisions will further encourage a market-based approach to renewable energy. Increased cooperation between neighbouring Member States will enhance the possibility to allocate financial resources more cost-efficiently to produce renewable electricity where the best climate and land potential exists.

More importantly, it is designed with the consumer's best interests at heart. All of us will have an active role in this transition towards a decarbonised energy system. For instance, a new right is granted to consumers to produce, consume, store and sell electricity in houses or apartment buildings. Administrative processes, especially for small projects, will be made faster, simpler and user-friendly.

Finally, the sustainability criteria for bioenergy are strengthened and their scope is broadened to cover biomass and biogas for heating and power. We want to ensure that the biomass we use in the EU for energy is

sustainable, delivers high greenhouse gas savings compared to fossil fuels, and does not cause deforestation, degradation of habitats or loss of biodiversity.

Project: second generation advanced biofuels plant in Crescentino (Italy)



The Crescentino biorefinery was launched under the NER300 bioenergy project. It is the first commercial facility in the world to produce second generation ethanol, following an investment of over €150 million, with a capacity of up to 40,000 tonnes of production per year. The technology is designed to use non-food biomass, like

rice straw and sugarcane bagasse, with no impact on land use and land use change.

► <http://bit.ly/2j6UoW4>

Energy efficiency first

'Energy efficiency first' is a key element of the Energy Union Strategy. Energy efficiency needs to be considered as a source of energy in its own right, because the cheapest, cleanest, most secure energy is the one that is not used at all.

The new energy package proposes a binding EU target of a 30% increase in energy efficiency. Previously, the European Council had agreed in 2014 to an indicative target of at least 27% with a review by 2020 having in mind 30%. The higher ambition level of the new target and its binding nature will help mobilise investment and set the framework, including specific measures, for the EU Member States to collectively reach this target.

Buildings represent the largest share of energy consumption in Europe and contribute more than a third of greenhouse gas emissions. On the way towards a decarbonised economy we need to renovate existing

building stock to make it more energy efficient and better able to use more renewable energy. This is crucial if we want to achieve the European targets for 2030. The updated Energy Performance of Buildings Directive will be simpler and smarter and will encourage better access to financing and create a long-term vision up to 2050 for our building stock. It will encourage the use of automation and control systems in buildings, as well as require the installation of recharging points for electric cars in private non-residential buildings, and the pre-installation for future recharging in residential buildings, to further promote the development of e-mobility in the EU. In parallel, the Smart Finance for Smart Buildings Initiative aims to help project developers unlock private financing for energy efficiency and use public money more effectively.

The updated Energy Efficiency Directive, together with other proposals such as the Market Design Initiative, the revised Renewable Energy Directive, as well as Ecodesign and Energy Labelling frameworks will also develop synergies to empower consumers and make them become active players in the energy market. ■

Project: Energy efficiency through ICT

The PEAKapp project (Personal Energy Administration Kiosk application), with funding of €2 million, aims to develop an innovative ICT-based system connecting energy markets and consumers. The energy savings will be achieved through behavioural change, flexible tariffs and fun. Validation under real life conditions in social housing will be carried out in Austria, Estonia, Sweden and Finland, involving 2,500 households, connecting them to social networks, and motivating them through serious gaming.

► www.peakapp.eu

The new energy efficiency measures

► <http://europa.eu/lgD67UU>

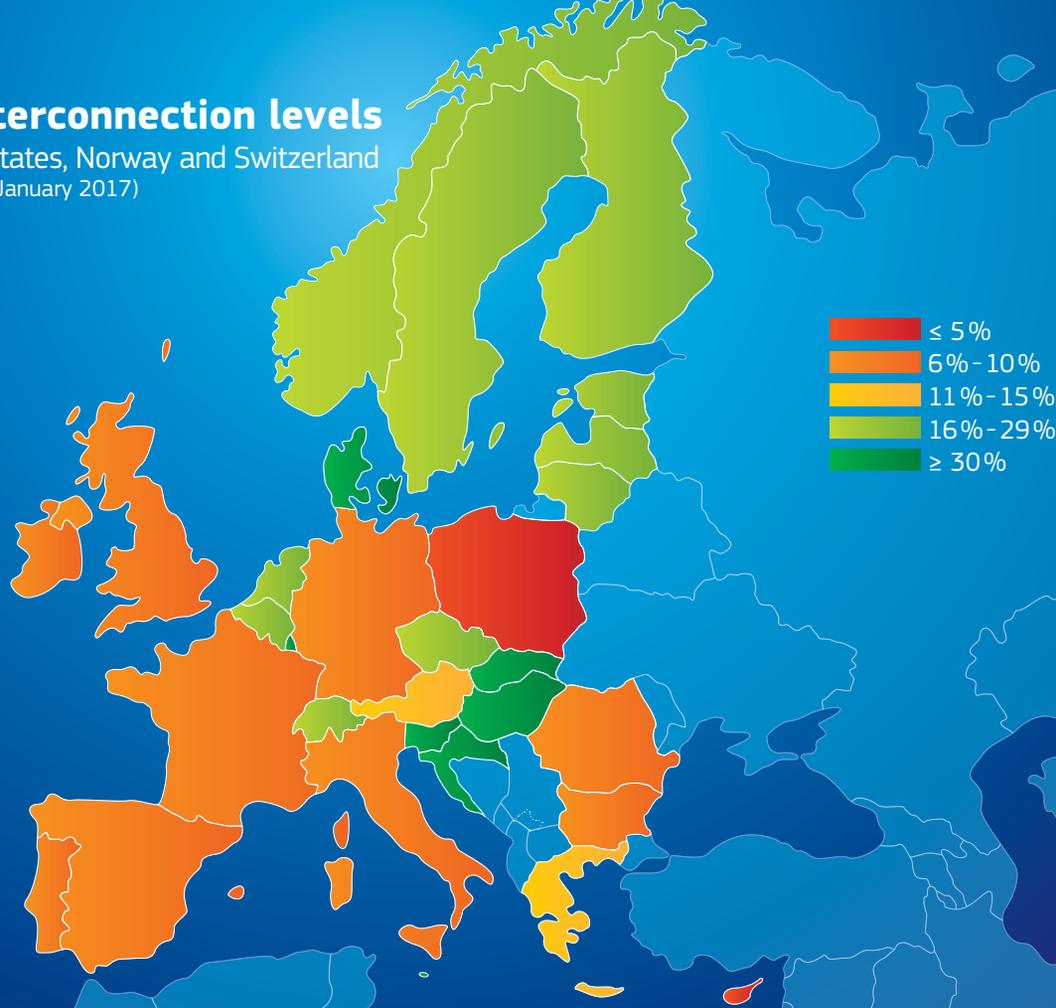
The revised renewable energy Directive

► <http://europa.eu/VW97jj>

Electricity interconnection levels

of the EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland

(January 2017)



ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE UNITING THE CONTINENT

by Katrien Prins, DG ENER

Of all the things that people would hate to miss, even for a short period of time, energy is in nearly everyone's top five. We need it to heat our homes, run our households, our industries and offices and to stay in touch with friends. It is so important to our daily lives that we cannot go a day without it.

Electricity and gas are not products that should have to respect borders. In fact, it is impossible for electricity to respect borders as it flows to the point of least resistance. On top of that, our energy should be as clean, safe and affordable as possible.

This is what EU energy infrastructure policy is all about: removing borders and making sure that all Europeans have access to affordable, clean energy. This means building links where they are missing, both in national networks and between national networks.

New gas pipes are making a difference

In the gas sector, a predominant worry is security of supply. In 2009, the EU experienced significant trou-

bles with ensuring gas supplies that were delivered via Ukraine. Since then, EU infrastructure policy has made a huge difference, in particular in developing infrastructure projects known as 'projects of common interest'. Member States that only had access to a single foreign supplier can now source gas from at least two different suppliers. Member States can also help each other out in case supplies via one source come to a halt. In short, more sources are available in all countries and new gas pipelines can now transport gas in two directions. This has been a game changer for security of supply.

Compared to 10 years ago, it is striking how big a step forward we have taken. Europe is fast becoming



This is what EU energy infrastructure policy is all about: removing borders and making sure that all Europeans have access to affordable, clean energy

a continent where fewer and fewer people have to fear being left out in the cold. The Baltic States are no longer dependent on Russia alone. They now have access to liquefied natural gas that can come from anywhere in the world. Other countries where Russia was by far the biggest supplier are now less exposed to supply disruptions from the east. There is still some work to be done, mainly in South-Eastern Europe, and in connecting the Iberian Peninsula to the rest of Europe's gas network. Once these investments are made, we can comfortably say that European gas infrastructure can withstand shocks, and consumers can feel secure.

Electricity infrastructure: more to do

The situation for electricity is different. Here, the energy transition towards a cleaner future is more pressing. It is also where the most encouraging results are found. Electricity from renewable energy sources is making headway in Europe. We produce 29% of our electricity from renewables now. By 2030 this should be 50% if Europe is to reach its energy and climate commitments.

This has major implications for infrastructure, which is needed to transport electricity from where renewables like wind, solar and biomass are produced, to the big demand centres. Consider, for example, offshore wind parks that need to be connected to the mainland. At the same time, some European countries are not well interconnected with their neighbours, or they have insufficient internal transmission capacity. To maintain Europe's position as a leader in renewables and to keep the lights on at all times, this situation needs to change.

By connecting up neighbouring networks, countries can help each other in the case of unforeseen events affecting electricity supply. Such events can take many forms - for instance when pylons fall during heavy storms, or when electricity production plants unexpectedly shut down. Increasingly, because our climate is

heating up and cooling water is no longer available in the quantities necessary in summer, plants have to shut down or produce less, which can also create problems. Investment in maintenance and renewal is necessary to keep Europe's reliability standards high. It is cheaper to have well interconnected networks, than to have all Member States fending for themselves.

A while ago it was decided that Member States need a minimum interconnection level of 10%. Now, this target no longer seems adequate in a changing electricity sector, and an increase is being examined. An expert group has been set up to support the Commission in defining a new target.

Advances in electricity infrastructure in the past five years have made a big difference. For instance, they have solved the electricity isolation of the Baltic States. Most Member States have reached the 10% interconnection level or were already well above it. But Poland and the Iberian Peninsula are still fairly isolated in electricity terms. In Spain the development of renewables is hampered because electricity cannot be exported. Such situations have to be resolved.

Infrastructure projects, such as the projects of common interest, work towards fixing missing links, but infrastructure cannot be built overnight. Projects have to contend with many interests. While EU policy streamlines planning permission and environmental procedures, the interests of all parties need to be safeguarded to ensure everybody's cooperation.

One thing is already clear: investment in missing links is necessary even beyond 2020. Sometimes this cannot be done on market terms alone, which is where the EU and European Investment Bank financing can come in. The case for help from the EU is one of solidarity: we need to ensure a safe energy transition that leaves no Member State behind. ■

Energy infrastructure
► <http://europa.eu/!vV86uj>



► DG Ristori moderates the Energy Community's 10th anniversary ceremony in the Austrian National Library in Vienna.

© Energy Community Secretariat

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BOOSTING ENERGY PARTNERSHIPS

by Gaspard Demur, DG ENER

The EU imports 53% of all the energy it consumes. Its import dependency is particularly high for crude oil (more than 90%) and for natural gas (66%). Alongside developing renewable energy or better integrating our energy market, energy security - notably diversification of supply - is an essential component of the Energy Union Strategy. For this, international cooperation is essential.

The Commission's approach is not only to establish strategic relationships with key suppliers or transit countries, but also to enter a broader political dialogue with key partner countries - including regulatory convergence, infrastructure development, investment cooperation and progress on the clean energy transition.

The Commission has established several geographical priorities under the Energy Union Strategy on which DG ENER focuses its efforts, together with DG NEAR, DG DEVCO and the EEAS. These include developing a strategic energy partnership with Ukraine, and deepening our links with members of the Energy Community (which recently saw the accession of Georgia).

Other priorities entail boosting our relationship with the Southern Neighbourhood with the launch of regional platforms - on gas, electricity and on renewable energy and energy efficiency. And we continue to strengthen cooperation with other major partners like the US, Canada, India, China and Japan. In addition, we are working on relaunching energy dialogue and cooperation with Iran, following the lifting of sanctions. Finally, we are active in multilateral energy fora such as the G7, G20, Clean Energy Ministerial, Mission Innovation, the IEA and IRENA.

Part of the job is more specifically related to international agreements that Member States are signing with

non-EU countries on energy. Since following EU energy market rules may not always be in the commercial interests of non-EU energy suppliers, Member States may come under pressure to include clauses which hamper the functioning of the EU internal energy market. Particularly troublesome are clauses that prevent, for instance, ownership unbundling of energy transport infrastructure or those preventing the purchaser of gas or oil from reselling the commodity to other Member States. To tackle this issue, an information exchange mechanism on intergovernmental agreements was adopted in 2012.

However the current system, that requires Member States to notify the Commission of such agreements only *after* they have been concluded, is not efficient. So the Commission proposed a new system, with a mandatory assessment of draft international agreements *before* they are signed. Negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council went well and a political agreement was reached just nine months later, in December 2016. This is the first major legislative deliverable under the Energy Union Strategy, marking a big step forward in ensuring international energy agreements comply with EU law. ■

International cooperation
► <http://europa.eu/yy68qf>

INNOVATION IN ENERGY AT THE CORE OF DECARBONISATION

by Rémy Denos, DG ENER

Energy innovation plays a very important role in decarbonising an energy system that will be increasingly based on renewable energy. In Europe, we want energy that is secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable. Innovation has already triggered great progress in this field: photovoltaic panels on rooftops and impressive fleets of on-shore and offshore wind turbines producing several megawatts of energy per turbine. But what if...?

What if tomorrow's photovoltaic cells were flexible and ready for use on any kind of flat or curved surface? What if wind turbines could float instead of being anchored to the seafloor, opening wide potential areas for energy production? And what about using the energy in waves or strong ocean currents? What about extracting heat from the earth with geothermal technologies, heat pumps and using waste to produce electricity and heat? All these possibilities open the door to huge potential for sustainable energy production.

But we should also make a big effort to reduce our energy consumption, in particular for heating and cooling, which accounts for 50% of our energy bill. This can be done without reducing - even increasing - our comfort level, using better-insulated buildings that integrate production from renewable sources and become producers of power instead, for energy-thirsty consumers. Meanwhile, transport is currently responsible for 30% of our greenhouse gas emissions. But what if we could power our cars, planes and ships with electricity and fuels produced from renewables, including biomass? What if we could solve the equation of fluctuating electricity production from wind and sun on the one hand, and peak energy demand in the early morning and evening on the other? By developing smart electricity networks that can store electricity and produce heat using efficient heat pumps and renewable fuels via electrolysis we could achieve that balance.

For all these 'what ifs', we are already developing and demonstrating technologies, tools, services and systems through European research and innovation programmes such as Horizon 2020, which is channel-



ling €6 billion to energy research from 2014 to 2020. In addition, we are already working on the next steps to take in our Strategic Energy Technology Plan to advance technological progress. The Accelerating Clean Energy Innovation Communication presented on 30 November as part of the Clean Energy for All Europeans package highlights the priorities.

Finally, we would like to put citizens at the centre of our energy system, changing from passive consumers to engaged energy customers who might produce, store and sell their own energy. 'Digitisation' will be key for this and will enable us to have digital monitoring and control of our energy use, make choices on when we consume energy, favouring the periods with abundant and cheap renewable energy production. ■

Technology and innovation in energy
► <http://europa.eu/jk94bX>

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

by Jenny Avery, DG CLIMA

It is just over a year since the world adopted the Paris Agreement on climate change to avoid the worst impacts of global warming and accelerate the transition to a global low-carbon economy. So, how much progress have we made in steering the planet towards a safer and more sustainable future?

On 12 December 2015, the world came together in an unprecedented show of global unity to agree the first-ever universal and binding deal to tackle climate change.

After the limited success of the Kyoto Protocol, and failure to reach a deal in Copenhagen in 2009, the Paris Agreement heralded the start of a new era of global cooperation on climate action.

Countries agreed a finely balanced and ambitious deal that aims to keep the global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursue efforts to limit the rise to 1.5°C, as well as to strengthen countries' resilience to climate impacts.

To achieve this, governments are required to prepare ambitious, nationally-agreed climate plans outlining the action they intend to take. To date, 190 plans, accounting for 97% of all global emissions, have been submitted.

However, it was clear even before Paris that more ambitious action would be required to meet the long-term temperature goal. That's why the EU, together with an alliance of developed and developing countries – the now famous High Ambition Coalition – insisted on some important safeguards to ensure success.

A five-year ambition cycle to progressively update targets, a transparency and accountability system to track progress against the long-term objective, and a fair deal on climate finance and support, were among the key elements included in the deal.

From adoption to law in record time

The historic signing ceremony in New York in April last year saw the biggest first day endorsement of a global agreement as 175 parties, including the EU and its Member States, underlined their commitment to the multilateral deal.



The European Union ratified the Paris Agreement in record time on 5 October 2016, ensuring it would enter into force in time for the climate conference in Marrakech, Morocco, a month later. The agreement became international law on 4 November 2016, less than a year after its adoption.

An ongoing and irreversible transition

Outside the UN process, the winds of change were blowing in high-emitting sectors. In October 2016, agreements were reached on tackling emissions from aviation (see #Cend 36) and shipping as well as on climate warming hydrofluorocarbon gases (HFCs) used in refrigeration and air conditioning equipment. Efforts in these important sectors will make a significant dent in global greenhouse gas emissions.

There are other clear signs that the world is moving in the right direction. In 2015, clean energy attracted record global investment of \$329 billion, six times greater than in 2004.

The International Renewable Energy Agency estimates that jobs in renewables could triple to 24 million globally by 2030.



© Belga

Many businesses, investors and other non-state actors are also playing their part. This is particularly important for scaling up action before 2020, when the new regime starts. For example, more than 4,000 companies, cities, regions and investors have pledged to set emission reduction goals, while over 800 companies and regions have committed to using a carbon price.

Moving forward in Marrakech

With the major political decisions already taken in Paris, the focus of the Marrakech climate conference in November was on showing tangible progress on key elements of the Paris package.

Countries made important headway on advancing the rulebook that will guide them as they put the agreement into practice on the ground, including on transparency and the five-year ambition cycle. They also made progress on work to develop the skills and processes needed in developing countries to implement their domestic climate plans, and on technology. The rulebook will be ready by 2018, when countries will also have a first chance to take stock of the collective efforts towards the Paris objectives.

Developed countries presented a roadmap providing increased predictability and transparency on the actions they are taking to achieve their goal of providing \$100 billion per year to developing countries by 2020. The EU continues to make significant efforts to scale up support for climate action. In 2015, the EU and its Member States provided €17.6 billion to help developing countries tackle climate change.

Regardless of uncertainties following the US election result, leaders confirmed their unwavering resolve by issuing the Marrakech Action Proclamation. This political statement reiterated the determination at the highest level to deliver on the actions agreed in Paris.

EU leading the way

The main challenge for all countries now is to turn the national climate action plans into actionable policies.

The EU is ahead of the curve in putting its Paris commitment to reduce domestic emissions by at least 40% by 2030 into action, with all the main proposals already before the Parliament and Council. This includes a series of measures to accelerate the low-carbon transition in all sectors of the European economy, as well as to kick-start the clean energy transition.

The EU aims to be at the vanguard of the clean energy revolution thanks to ambitious policies that will boost energy efficiency and renewables, modernise energy markets, create jobs, keep Europe competitive and provide clean energy for all Europeans.

While we have a long road ahead of us, the direction of travel is clear. The last 12 months have shown that the world has taken the crucial first steps on the journey towards a low-carbon and sustainable future. ■

Paris Agreement

► <http://europa.eu/!rx97qm>

EU Climate Action facebook page

► <https://www.facebook.com/EUClimateAction/>

THE MONTI REPORT A NEW APPROACH TO FINANCING THE EU

by Anne Montagnon, DG BUDG

The high-level group on own resources (HLGOR) - or 'Monti Group' - was established in February 2014 to reflect on more transparent, simple, fair and democratically accountable ways to finance the EU. Last month, the group presented its final report and recommendations.

The HLGOR was chaired by former Prime Minister of Italy and former Commissioner Mario Monti, and composed of members designated by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. It was the first time that an inter-institutional group was entrusted with such a task.

The group concluded that reform of the EU budget - both on the revenue and the expenditure side - is necessary to address the challenges that the EU faces today and on which EU citizens expect tangible results.

"Under the present financial frame conditions, the EU budget cannot fulfil its full potential and many of the benefits of EU action remain hidden. EU expenditure should focus more on areas of public common goods, such as securing our external borders, stabilizing our neighbourhood or tackling climate change. And a reformed income side of the budget would contribute to this shift," said Mario Monti.

New sources of income to be considered

The bulk of EU budget income consists of 'own resources', which are sources of public revenue that belong to the EU but are collected on its behalf by Member States. There are currently three types of own resources:

- traditional own resources, mainly customs duties;
- a share of the nationally-collected value added tax (VAT); and
- the gross national income (GNI)-based own resource, conceived as the residual and balancing resource, but which provides the lion's share of EU revenue today.

The HLGOR has proposed different options to partially replace the GNI-based contributions. They would be more visible, more accountable and create a link with

EU policies, such as improving the functioning of the Single Market and fiscal coordination (e.g. an own resource based on corporate income tax), or those that relate to the Energy Union, environment, climate or transport policies (e.g. a CO₂ levy). Such own resources would not only finance the EU budget, but also contribute to EU policy objectives - a new dimension for the EU budget.

The group has also recommended exploring revenue other than own resources - for example, auctioning proceeds or other revenue stemming directly from EU policies (border control, digital single market, etc.).

The direct and indirect impact of the EU budget should be better reflected in cost-benefit presentations. The current indicators, mostly net balances, ignore the added value of EU policies and participation in the largest single market. Additional indicators should be developed to give a more comprehensive picture of the costs and benefits of the EU.

A close partnership

The working meetings were hosted alternately by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. As regards the configuration of the secretariat of the HLGOR, of which I was a member, it was one of the few occasions where colleagues from the Commission (DG BUDG), the European Parliament administration and the General Secretariat of the Council had the opportunity to cooperate directly and closely over a period of almost two years. We worked together on driving the agenda forward, preparing documents, inviting guest speakers, organising the logistics and coordinating the input and feedback of the members.



► **Members at the last HLGOR meeting (left to right): Ivailo Kalfin, Guy Verhofstadt, Daniel Dăianu, Kristalina Georgieva, Mario Monti and Alain Lamassoure.**

© EU

Main recommendations

1. A reform of the EU budget is necessary – both on the revenue and expenditure side.
2. The EU budget needs to focus on areas bringing the highest ‘European added value’, for which European action is not only relevant but indispensable. A reform of own resources would impact the composition of revenue, not the volume of the EU budget. It should not increase the overall fiscal burden for the EU taxpayer, and should try to create synergies between EU and national funding.
3. Some elements of the current system work well and should be kept (balanced budget, traditional own resources, residual GNI-based own resource).
4. The most attractive new own resources would not only finance the EU budget but also:
 - improve the functioning of the Single Market and fiscal coordination: a reformed VAT own resource, a corporate income tax-based own resource, a financial transaction tax or other financial activities tax; or
 - relate to the Energy Union, environment, climate or transport policies: a CO₂ levy, proceeds from the EU Emissions Trading System, an electricity tax, a motor fuel levy, etc.
5. Revenue other than own resources also needs to be explored.
6. The costs and benefits of EU membership should be better reflected than today.
7. All correction mechanisms should be abolished.
8. The coherence of the EU budget and national budgets within the European Semester should be reviewed. Information concerning national contributions to the EU budget in national budgets should be harmonised so that they are understood and anticipated.
9. A certain degree of differentiation should be allowed, notably for the further development of the euro area or for policies under enhanced cooperation.

A memorable moment for me was the inter-institutional conference with national parliaments ‘Future Financing of the EU’, that we organised in September 2016; it was really innovative in its set-up.

Next steps

The Commission will prepare its future legislative proposals concerning the post-2020 period in the coming

months. Any modification of the own resources decision requires unanimity in the Council, after consultation of the European Parliament. It can only come into effect after ratification in all Member States. ■

The high-level group on own resources

► http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/hlgor/index_en.cfm

Février 2017



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UNLOCK THE POWER OF INFORMATION NEW KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

by Antonella Tarallo, SG



Have you ever felt frustrated that the information you need for your job is sometimes hard to find and access? Do you think we could make better use of data to support our policy making? Are you looking for new ways to work together with colleagues from across the Commission?

The Commission has just launched a brand new strategy to improve the way we manage our data, information and knowledge. It recognises that these are strategic assets for the Commission and, as such, should be managed actively, creatively and intelligently.

From information hoarding to information sharing
The Communication *Data, Information and Knowledge Management at the European Commission* sets out a fresh approach which will exploit the full potential of the information we have and reinforce the team-based working methods of the Juncker Commission.

The political priorities of the Commission demand innovative responses cutting across multiple departments and policy areas. This requires a more modern approach and a major change in culture from information hoarding to information sharing. Everyone in the Commission has a role in making this change happen.

The new strategy was guided by two key principles: a need to move to more collaborative ways of working, and improved sharing of information and knowledge.

The Communication identifies four main areas of action:

- Improving information retrieval and delivery;
- Promoting collaborative working and knowledge sharing;
- Maximising the use of data for better policy making; and
- Creating a culture of knowledge sharing and learning.

The follow-up to the Communication is led by a new senior-level Information Management Steering Board, chaired by Deputy Secretary-General Paraskevi Michou.

At its first meeting last December, the board adopted its work programme for 2017. The main actions include developing a powerful corporate search engine to allow staff to more easily find and retrieve information; improving and expanding the use of collaborative tools; building knowledge and competence centres for priority policy areas; and improving the use of data, including big data, for better policy making.

One of the most important parts of the new strategy is about how we can adapt our working habits and culture to become an organisation where information sharing and team-working is the norm.

Dedicated training and new IT tools will be rolled out to support this transition. But ultimately it is down to all Commission staff to look for opportunities to share information and to embrace collaborative ways of working.

Interested in finding out more?

Information Management has a dedicated page (see link below). This is an active website where we share all the latest news and information. There is a 'Have Your Say' section and we would be pleased to hear from you with any ideas and comments you may have. ■

Data, information and knowledge management
▶ <http://europa.eu/tK98Cb>



TIM | Tools for
Innovation
Monitoring

Applying text mining and visualisation
to policy-relevant datasets



TIM ANALYTICS SHINING A LIGHT ON COMPLEXITY

by Nathalie Paulger, CEND

The huge benefits of innovation and technological developments are sometimes hard to capitalise on. Commission en direct talks to Olivier Eulaerts, project leader of the JRC team who developed a 'Tool for Innovation Monitoring' or TIM, which helps policy makers to monitor and make sense of the myriad of information available.

What is TIM Analytics?

TIM is a series of analytics tools developed by the JRC to make sense of large and complex datasets of relevance for policy making. It can be customised to support stages of EU policy making in various fields like impact evaluation, detection of emerging technological trends or insight into regional innovation. It does this by linking datasets of semi-structured data together to build domains of information relevant for policy. Once linked, TIM processes the data using text mining techniques to build an index for each data item containing all the fields and their values, enriched with additional data generated by TIM using semantic extraction techniques or clustering algorithms, for example. Users can query this index to build subsets of data that are then visualised through various types of graphs.

What are the benefits?

The main advantage is customisation to the specific needs of policy makers. TIM's architecture allows users to address various types of datasets and add visualisation modules or features that allow policy makers to extract knowledge from data.

The TIM Analytics team already works with partners in various DGs on topics like the management of EU grants, impact evaluation or technology monitoring. TIM has also gained traction in the JRC in various areas: detection of trends in science, smart specialisation or genomics.

Three tools gathering information from news, patents, scientific publications and R&D projects funded by the EU are already available:

- **TIM Technology Editor:** accessible by staff of the EU institutions, it enables the user to create specific subsets of data, within their own user spaces, monitor thematic or technological areas and analyse the data;
- **TIM Edge:** a monitoring system for emerging technologies;
- **TIM Energy:** a technology watch system in the field of energy.

Other customised tools are under development.

What's next?

The TIM project is the work of a recently launched 'Text Mining and Data Mining' unit in the JRC. This unit is setting up Competence Centres specialised in developing, and providing access to, text mining and data mining management and analytics tools. It will act as a hub for tools, services and training for the EU institutions and strategic partners in the fields of open source intelligence, media monitoring, information harvesting as well as innovation monitoring, statistical data mining and visualisation. ■

TIM analytics

► <http://www.timanalytics.eu/>

TIM on CONNECTED

► <https://connected.cnect.cec.eu.int/groups/tim>



ABANDONED BIKES THE LAST RIDE

by María Fernández García, CEND

Have you forgotten a bike in one of the parking areas of Commission buildings in Brussels? You may find it has gone for a ride without you, and disappeared. In recent months, OIB has carried out a sweep of abandoned bikes, to make space for commuting cyclists who need it. And it has now decided to make such clear-outs a permanent policy.

Last autumn OIB started a campaign to get rid of those bicycles that seemed to be forgotten in the Commission's parking lots. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to make better use of the existing parking space, so more places are available for regular cyclists.

First, abandoned bikes had to be identified, like those that had been left for weeks in the same place or that were unfit for use (with damaged or missing parts, for example). Then, they were labelled with plastic stickers, offering owners a chance to recover them.

After one month, any labelled bikes that remained unclaimed were considered abandoned. Some 183 bikes were identified in this way, with the highest numbers unsurprisingly in those buildings with the biggest parking areas. The Berlaymont was at the top of the list, with 36 abandoned bikes.

By the end of January, all the bicycles were taken to a temporary storage zone, where they will remain for at least two more months. After that, if the bikes are still unclaimed, they will be given away to NGOs so they can still be of use to someone else.

Encouraging cycling to work

The Commission and OIB encourage staff to cycle for their daily commute. For this, parking facilities have been made available in all the different buildings. However, OIB frequently has to remind staff that Commis-

sion parking areas cannot be used for the storage of private bikes.

Commission staff can also borrow one of the service bicycles available for work-related travel, for which there is a dedicated zone in each parking area. There are currently 256 classic bikes and 10 electric ones. Retired staff may also be authorised to use these bicycles on a case-by-case basis.

This is not the first time that OIB has collected bikes that have been left in Commission parking areas. The last time was in 2014, when a total of 117 bikes were removed. Of those, only eight were claimed by their owners, so the rest were donated to Oxfam.

But from now on, this will occur on a permanent basis. There will no longer be any specific communication or warnings to staff, beyond the above-mentioned labelling of the bicycles.

Therefore, if you have forgotten a bike in one of our buildings recently, this is your last opportunity to retrieve it! It may still be waiting for you in the temporary storage zone. For more information, consult the website (link below). And if you think your bike might be languishing in the temporary storage zone, send an e-mail to the mailbox: OIB-VELOS-DE-SERVICE@ec.europa.eu. ■

Bicycles in Brussels

► <http://europa.eu/!Qc68rU>

Henning Christophersen (1939-2016)



A homage by Jens Nymand Christensen, Deputy Director-General of DG EAC, former member of Christophersen Cabinet

With the death of former Vice-President Christophersen, Europe lost one of its most fervent Danish supporters and Denmark lost its most influential European politician.

Henning Christophersen became Vice-President of the Commission in 1985 after being Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Finance in Denmark. During his 10 years in the Commission he pushed forward key files including the internal market, the structural funds and economic and monetary union.

He came at a time of deep crisis when the Community had no budget, and brought from the Danish system of minority governments the skills to build majorities: time and again, he succeeded in obtaining a majority in Parliament and the support of Member States. During his time in charge of economic and monetary policy he reminded people of earlier acrimonious fights when Member States tried to devalue their currency and gain a competitive

advantage over each other. Henning Christophersen was a strong believer in the common currency both for its political significance and the stability it brought, but he was convinced it would have to be matched by stronger economic governance.

After leaving the Commission he worked on the European Energy Charter and Trans-European Networks, and in 2002 was appointed representative of the Danish government to the Convention on the Future of Europe.

He strongly supported the Juncker Investment Plan and in 2016 drafted a report on how to bring transport infrastructure projects from concept to realisation.

He continued to argue for a stronger Europe and was a firm believer in the EU and in the key role of the Commission. He insisted on never losing sight of the EU's shared values and the solidarity between nations and peoples. ■

NOMINATIONS

La Commission a décidé de muter



Antoaneta Angelova-Krasteva

DG EAC
directeur
direction «Innovation,
coopération
internationale et sport»



Joost Korte

DG TRADE
directeur général adjoint
chargé des directions E, F,
G et H



Bernard Friess

DG MARE
directeur
direction «Politique
maritime et économie
bleue»

BON ANNIVERSAIRE!

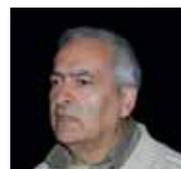


Un ancien collègue de la Commission, Marcel Duperron, a fêté son 100^{ème} anniversaire le 3 janvier 2017. Après avoir travaillé à Paris comme chauffeur auprès de l'Ambassade de Grande-Bretagne

et du Canada, il est engagé en cette qualité en 1958 à l'Euratom auprès de la Direction générale IX où il devient rapidement chauffeur principal. Son aspect stylé, sa ponctualité et sa serviabilité l'amèneront à être, de 1973 à 1977, mis à la disposition du président de la Commission, François-Xavier Ortoli. Il quitte l'institution en 1979 après 21 années d'activité et se retire à Neufchâtel-Hardelot (Pas-de-Calais) où il réside toujours actuellement, non loin de sa fille et de son gendre. D'esprit très indépendant, il vit de manière autonome dans sa belle maison entourée d'un grand jardin qu'il affectionne particulièrement. Il s'y adonnait encore il y a peu à la culture maraîchère. Le secret de sa longévité: l'activité, le travail bien fait... et la nature à proximité. Selon l'usage pour nos centenaires, Marcel Duperron a reçu à l'occasion de son anniversaire un petit cadeau et une lettre de félicitations. ■

MUZIEKPUBLIQUE LA MUSIQUE DE TOUTES LES CULTURES

par **Nathalie Paulger**, CEND



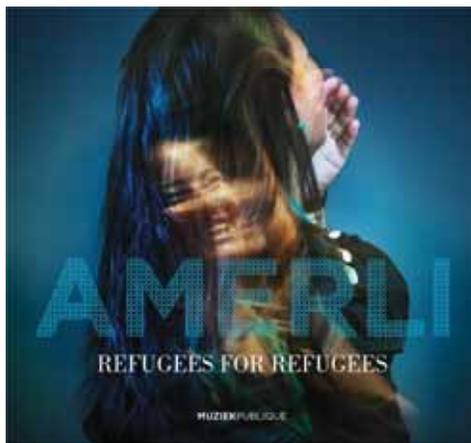
Muziekpublique est une association de promotion, de défense et de représentation des musiques traditionnelles du monde. Commission en direct a rencontré le Président, Vitor de Ascençao, retraité de la Commission.

D'où vient votre envie de rejoindre MUZIEKPUBLIQUE?

J'ai toujours été attiré par la musique. Et j'ai certainement été motivé par la mission sociale de l'ASBL, qui transparaît dans toutes ses activités. Je suis devenu président de Muziekpublique après avoir travaillé comme bénévole, j'accomplissais alors des tâches que les 5 salariés de l'ASBL n'avaient pas le temps d'accomplir - ils se consacrent à l'organisation de centaines de concerts annuels (au théâtre Molière). Muziekpublique a également une *World Music & Dance Academy* où presque 500 élèves apprennent la pratique des instruments, danses et chants du monde.

Nous faisons aussi la production de CDs et l'encadrement des artistes qui n'auraient pas, pour la plupart, la possibilité de sortir un CD. Donc également une activité d'encadrement social: donner une place dans la société à des artistes. Une fois par an, nous accompagnons un projet de création musicale du début à la fin, et prenons en charge les frais de production, d'enregistrement et de promotion de l'album. Nous organisons ensuite une tournée internationale et assurons la distribution de l'album.

Les albums produits ont toujours, en plus de la promotion des artistes, une intention de se situer ou d'intervenir dans le monde compliqué dans lequel nous vivons: par exemple le groupe *AMERLI* (qui est le nom d'une ville d'Irak) qui réunit les cultures de musiciens réfugiés originaires d'Irak, d'Afghanistan, de Syrie, du Pakistan et du Tibet. Cet album est destiné tant à valoriser les musiciens qui y participent qu'à favoriser les activités artistiques d'autres réfugiés en Belgique - une



partie des bénéfices de la vente de l'album est reversée aux associations *Globe Aroma* et *Synergie 14* pour soutenir leurs activités de terrain.

Parlez-nous un peu du CD qui a été nommé meilleur CD de musique du monde de 2016.

Refugees for Refugees a été choisi meilleur album musique du monde par Transglobal World Music Chart, un jury international de journalistes spécialisés en musique du monde. Pour ce travail nous avons réuni des musiciens arrivés comme réfugiés et avons mélangé différentes nationalités qui s'expriment harmonieusement dans leur musique. Le mérite de ce prix revient certainement aux musiciens de haut niveau que Muziekpublique a pu réunir. Je crois que le succès de ce CD constitue une véritable leçon pour nous tous européens, ces nouveaux citoyens ont beaucoup à nous donner. Ils enrichissent nos cultures.

De futurs projets?

En 2017 nous fêterons nos 15 ans avec une série d'activités: une soirée spéciale mettant à l'honneur le label, des cours d'instruments en ligne et de nouveaux cours de musique à l'académie, et bien sûr de nombreux et excellents concerts au théâtre Molière. Un nouveau projet de CD est déjà prévu avec deux musiciens sénégalais et un violoniste belge, ainsi qu'une 2^{ème} édition du festival *Hide & Seek* avec des concerts dans des lieux insolites. ■

Muziekpublique
► www.muziekpublique.be



ART NOUVEAU ET ART DECO UN NOUVEAU FESTIVAL

par María Fernández García, CEND

De bonnes nouvelles pour les amateurs d'Art nouveau et d'Art déco: il ne faudra plus attendre deux ans pour assister à la Biennale de Bruxelles. Dès 2017, l'événement devient un festival annuel dont la première édition aura lieu du 11 au 26 mars. Trois weekends pour entrer dans les plus beaux intérieurs de la ville.



► Musée Van Buuren - © Sophie Voituren.

Après 8 éditions, l'ancienne Biennale renaîtra ce printemps pour devenir le «Brussels Art Nouveau & Art Deco Festival» (BANAD). Une cinquantaine de bâtiments exceptionnels des premières décennies du vingtième siècle ouvriront leurs portes au public. Au programme, d'autres nouveautés, comme des activités festives et spéciales pour les familles.

Le succès de la Biennale a encouragé les organisateurs à adopter un rythme annuel. Selon la responsable du festival, Jacinthe Gigou, telle a été la demande du gouvernement de la Région de Bruxelles capitale, qui soutient l'événement, vu son importance touristique pour la ville. «C'est vraiment un des événements patrimoniaux les plus forts à Bruxelles, sur une identité très bruxelloise, parce

que l'architecture Art nouveau et Art déco, c'est typiquement bruxellois», affirme-t-elle.

L'organisation a décidé de changer aussi de saison et de troquer l'automne pour le printemps. Le programme culturel est moins chargé en mars, tandis qu'à la rentrée il y avait déjà de nombreuses visites guidées dans le cadre des Journées du patrimoine et d'autres initiatives similaires.

Comme d'habitude, chaque weekend proposera de découvrir un quartier différent de la ville. Les constructions les plus emblématiques seront présentes au programme, comme les hôtels de maître de Victor Horta ou la Villa Empain, mais aussi de nombreuses petites maisons privées, qui sont habitées et qui ne seront ouvertes au public qu'à l'occasion du festival.

«C'est cela que les gens adorent et qui fait la qualité de l'événement, qui reste assez intimiste», explique Jacinthe Gigou. Chaque visite est guidée par un historien de l'art qui présente l'histoire de la maison, ses matériaux, sa restauration, etc.

Toujours à la recherche de maisons

Malgré quinze années d'éditions précédentes, les organisateurs cherchent toujours à trouver de nouveaux intérieurs pour un public fidèle. Cette année, le programme offrira une dizaine de nouveautés, qui sont le résultat d'un long travail de prospection et de contacts avec les propriétaires.

«C'est une véritable enquête. On prospecte dans les rues, on regarde les façades, on dépose du courrier dans les boîtes aux lettres, on sonne aux portes, on rencontre les gens... C'est un travail qui prend du temps mais nous arrivons encore à dénicher des nouveautés», dit la responsable.

L'offre d'activités complémentaires s'est aussi agrandie pour cette édition. Il y aura des concerts à différents endroits, des expositions, des promenades à pied, en bus et à vélo et, pour la première fois, un weekend spécial pour les familles. Et même une revue costumée sur le thème des années folles, où sera recrée l'ambiance des fêtes du Grand Gatsby. «On a envie d'un festival complet», affirme Jacinthe Gigou.

L'association Voir et Dire Bruxelles, qui rassemble quatre ASBL bruxelloises engagées dans la promotion du patrimoine, va aussi changer de nom et devenir «Explore Brussels» dans un souci d'internationalisation. En effet, environ la moitié du public de la dernière Biennale 2015 était de nationalité étrangère.

Au-delà de la première édition du festival, les organisateurs pensent déjà à celle de 2018, qui se concentrera sur l'architecte Victor Horta, à l'occasion du 70^{ème} anniversaire de sa mort. Une opportunité de faire découvrir encore plus de lieux jamais ouverts au public.

Mais, le programme 2017 promet déjà de séduire les amoureux de l'architecture de cette époque. ■

Voir et Dire Bruxelles

► <http://bit.ly/2k3Ug6Z>

70 ans depuis la mort d'Horta



© Archives du musée Horta à Saint-Gilles.

Victor Horta est probablement la figure la plus emblématique de l'Art nouveau bruxellois.

Né à Gand en 1861, il est mort le 8 septembre 1947 à Bruxelles, où se trouvent ses œuvres les plus connues.

La Maison Tassel, édifiée en 1893 par Horta, fut l'une des premières constructions

bruxelloises du nouveau style

international qui s'étendra en Europe entre 1890 et 1910. Surgi en réaction à la reproduction épuisée des styles du passé, comme la néo-Renaissance flamande ou le néo-gothique, l'Art nouveau arrivera comme une vague de modernité.

Le nouveau mouvement apparaît dans le contexte de la révolution industrielle. Il profite du développement de la métallurgie et des nouvelles techniques de fabrication du verre, comme celle de Tiffany. Le fer et la fonte deviennent des matériaux par excellence, décorés avec des vitraux multicolores.

Bien qu'il se nourrisse des matériaux contemporains produits industriellement, l'Art nouveau revalorise aussi l'artisanat. Les arts décoratifs fleurissent dans les nouveaux bâtiments, souvent inspirés par des motifs naturels et par l'art japonais. Le nouveau style trouvera ses clients dans le milieu de la bourgeoisie progressiste, qui adopte cette architecture comme l'expression d'un esprit ouvert à la modernité. C'est le cas d'industriels comme Ernest Solvay, devenu immensément riche grâce à un nouveau procédé de fabrication de la soude. Sa famille sera l'un des principaux clients d'Horta. Au cours des années 20, l'Art déco prend le relais, et les formes géométriques remplacent les lignes courbes de l'Art nouveau. À l'époque, les constructions d'Horta s'inscrivent déjà dans l'Art déco, comme le Palais des Beaux-Arts, fini en 1928. La gare de Bruxelles central sera son dernier projet, qu'il ne pourra terminer avant sa mort.

GLAMOUR AND ROMANCE IN THE SKIES

SABENA. TRAVEL IN STYLE

by Nathalie Paulger, CEND

In this age of low-cost flying and cheap package holidays, it is easy to forget that travelling by plane once conjured up images of romantic voyages, elegance and luxury, reserved only for the fashionable elites. Until September, the exhibition *Sabena. Travel in Style* immerses the visitor in this long lost era by bringing back to life the airline that promised to rhyme transport with comfort.

The first part of this exhibition held in the Atomium recounts the history of the once world-renowned airline. Founded in 1923, Sabena, short for 'Société Anonyme Belge d'Exploitation de la Navigation Aérienne', was the world's third oldest airline. Although it initially worked to establish a European network, it soon pioneered some of the first routes to Africa. The first flight from Belgium to the Belgian Congo in 1925 took 51 days (including 75 hours in the air)! Brussels to Leopoldville then became a regular route in the 1930s, with two flights a month, taking five days. The visitor is taken from these exciting beginnings through to the golden age of glamour and modernity in the 1950s with helicopters and jets, to the rise of the package holiday in the 1960s, all the way to the crisis in the 1990s ending with the airline's collapse in 2001.

The airline's slogan 'you're in good hands' assured its passengers luxury and comfort and this is precisely what the visitor can (re)discover in the second part of the exhibition. It retraces the full experience starting from the departure halls and the check-in area, boarding and onto the flight itself with the service and comfort which made this an experience reserved exclusively for the upper class.

The visitor will be able to admire old flight time display boards, advertisements and more and will also get a glimpse of the sort of passengers carried by Sabena: businessmen, colonial families, missionaries, celebrities, upper-class tourists - even wild animals, transported between Belgium and the Congo. The services provided to passengers will be on display through a series of objects on the aircraft: the seats, the beds and kitchens on board (hot meals were served from 1948 onwards). It also shows the air hostesses, who were then presented



as maternal figures. The exhibition also presents the destinations offered by the airline, especially Africa, and Sabena's role in providing access to the Congo.

Finally, the exhibition brings back to life the 'human adventure' that was Sabena, recounting the people that made the airline what it was: the Sabena police, the chefs, the hostesses, the pilots and more.

Don't miss out: boarding has already started and is open until 10 September in the exhibition sphere of the Atomium! ■

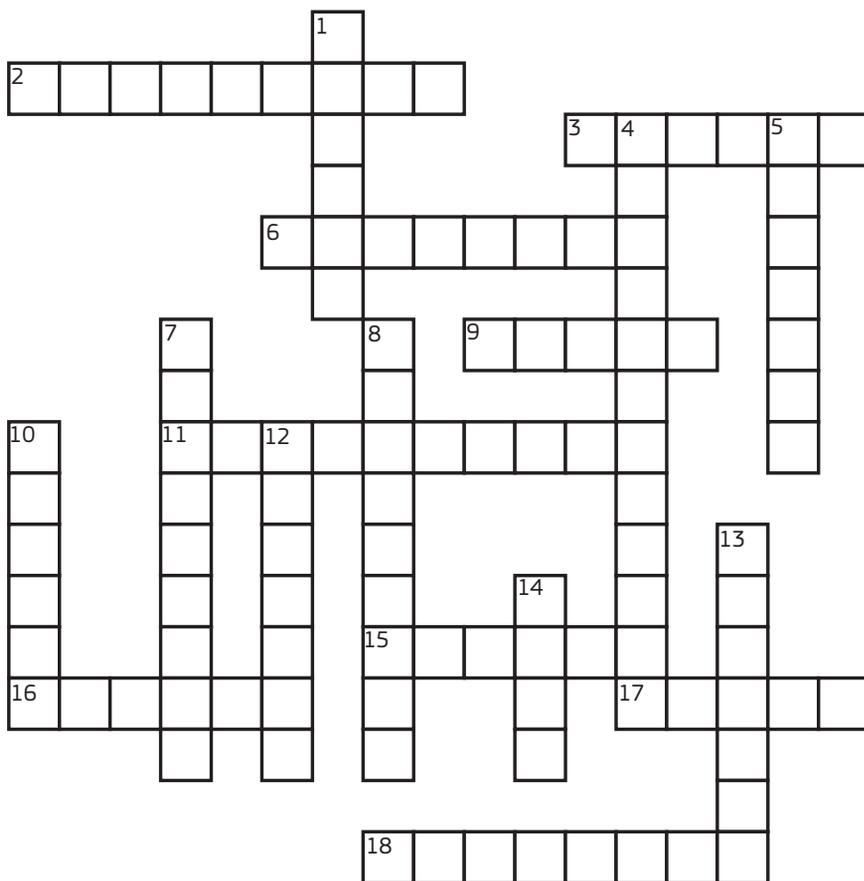
Sabena. Travel in Style

► <http://atomium.be/sabena.aspx>

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 02** Paolo, Italian Prime Minister since December 2016
- 03** Danish city, one of the two European Capitals of Culture in 2017
- 06** Capital of Malta
- 09** Alessandro, Italian inventor who created the first battery
- 11** EU programme for Earth observation named after a famous Polish astronomer
- 15** Unit of electric current that takes the name of a French physicist
- 16** Meryl, 2017 winner of the Cecil B. DeMille Award for outstanding contributions to entertainment
- 17** Acronym of the Joint Undertaking launched in 2004 to modernise Europe's air traffic management system
- 18** António, new UN Secretary-General



DOWN

- 01** Ernest, Belgian chemist who was an important client of Victor Horta
- 04** Nicos, President of Cyprus
- 05** Chemical element used to create nuclear power
- 07** Unit of radioactivity in the International System
- 08** International Film Festival with a Golden Bear award
- 10** Mário, former Portuguese Prime Minister who signed Portugal's EU accession treaty
- 12** EU-funded project to develop an ICT application connecting energy markets and end-users
- 13** Centigrade temperature scale invented by the Swedish scientist of the same name
- 14** Karl, German engineer who designed the first automobile powered by an internal-combustion engine

ANSWERS TO DECEMBER/JANUARY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 01 BULC - 04 SKŁODOWSKA - 07 UKIYO-E - 11 ARIANE - 13 ERDMANN - 15 WROCLAW - 17 EURYDICE - 18 HIGGS

DOWN: 02 COSME - 03 CHAFAE - 05 STRANDBEEST - 06 SKELLINGTON - 08 INEA - 09 OREILLY - 10 GRAWITON - 12 INTERHACK - 14 ORANGE - 16 MIES

Answers in next month's edition. Send your suggestions for clues and keys to Maria.FERNANDEZ-GARCIA@ec.europa.eu, with 'crosswords' in the subject line.

QUIZ

CLEAN ENERGY

- 01** How much of our energy bill do heating and cooling account for?
- a. 40%
 - b. 50%
 - c. 60%
- 02** When did the Paris Agreement enter into force?
- a. November 2016
 - b. January 2017
 - c. It is not in force yet
- 03** What percentage of our greenhouse gas emissions is due to transport?
- a. 18%
 - b. 30%
 - c. 45%
- 04** How much funding is Horizon 2020 channelling to energy research in the current 2014-2020 period?
- a. €6 billion
 - b. €7.5 billion
 - c. €4.5 billion
- 05** What share of the energy consumed in the EU is imported?
- a. 75%
 - b. 65%
 - c. 53%
- 06** In 2009, the EU had trouble with gas supplies delivered via which of the following countries?
- a. Belarus
 - b. Turkey
 - c. Ukraine
- 07** How much of the crude oil consumed in the EU is imported?
- a. 75%
 - b. 80%
 - c. 90%
- 08** How many parties endorsed the Paris Agreement last April?
- a. 125
 - b. 175
 - c. 200
- 09** What is the proposed new EU target for increasing energy efficiency by 2030?
- a. 30%
 - b. 40%
 - c. 50%
- 10** How many new jobs are expected to be created by the Clean Energy package?
- a. Up to 900,000
 - b. More than 1.2 million
 - c. About 300,000

ANSWERS:
1b - 2a - 3b - 4a - 5c - 6c - 7c - 8b - 9a - 10a

HISTOIRE EN IMAGES

25 YEARS TEACHING EU LAW

The Academy of European Law (ERA) celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Since 1992, this non-profit public foundation has been training legal practitioners in EU law. Its patrons include most EU Member States and it is supported by the EU, through an operating grant under the Jean Monnet programme. With headquarters in Trier, ERA also has offices in Brussels and organises conferences and seminars around Europe, as well as online training.

1992



Building on a 1991 resolution of the European Parliament to set up an Academy of European Law, the academy is established by the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Rhineland-Palatinate, the City of Trier and the 'Friends of ERA' Association in the legal form of a foundation.

► **Signing ceremony in Trier, 22 June 1992: for Rhineland-Palatinate, Justice Minister Peter Caesar; for the City of Trier, Mayor Helmut Schröer; for Luxembourg, First Counsellor of the Ministry of Justice Charles Elsen; for the 'Friends of ERA' Association, Horst Langes MEP and Willi Rothley MEP.**

1998



The ERA Conference Centre and new headquarters in Trier are inaugurated in September 1998. The President of the European Court of Justice at the time, Gil Carlos Rodríguez Iglesias, stresses the "*prestigious reputation*" acquired by the institution in the field of ongoing training of judges and lawyers.

► **Opening of the Conference Centre and new headquarters in Trier.**

2017



ERA celebrates its 25th anniversary on 19 January with a reception at the BELvue museum in Brussels. Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker attends as guest speaker. Today ERA works closely with the Commission to provide training in EU law to legal practitioners.

► **President Juncker delivering his speech at the 25th anniversary reception.**



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PLB-3
Rue Philippe Le Bon, 1-3
1000 Brussels, Belgium
8:30 - 16:30 (Mon-Fri)
CIANO

P Fork and knife Cup and saucer Shower

L-41
Rue de la Loi, 41
1040 Brussels, Belgium
Today's Menu
Soup - chicken broth with ginger
Starter - zucchini tarte with bacon
Dish 1 - chicory gratin, potatoes

P Fork and knife Cup and saucer Shower

ORBN
Square Frère Orban, 5-7
1040 Brussels, Belgium
6:00 - 22:00 (Mon-Fri)
Non-reserved car place 78

Cup and saucer P Shower

SPA2

↑ Straight on Boulevard Charlemagne **300 m**

↻ First exit roundabout Rue Lindemans **375 m**

↑ Continue straight **515 m**



WHERE 2 GO

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