

Luxembourg takes over Council Presidency

As of 1 July, the rotating six-month presidency of the Council of the EU is in the hands of Luxembourg until 31 December 2015. Luxembourg will have to face many pressing issues, including the Greek debt crisis, an increase in irregular migration and the preparation for the climate change conference in Paris in December. The Luxembourg Presidency work programme is based around 7 headings: stimulating investment to boost growth and employment; deepening the EU's social dimension; managing migration, including freedom, justice and security; revitalising the single market with a focus on its digital dimension; placing EU competitiveness in a global and transparent framework; promoting sustainable development and strengthening the EU's presence on the global stage. (Source: Council of the EU)

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/home/>

Commission puts forward €13.1bn investment in transport infrastructure

The European Commission unveiled a €13.1bn investment plan in 276 transport projects, selected under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). This investment is expected to unlock additional public and private co-financing for a combined amount of €28.8bn. Along with the future European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the CEF will play a major role in bridging the investment gap in Europe, which is one of the Commission's top priorities. The proposed funding decision must now be formally adopted by the Connecting Europe Facility Committee, which will meet on 10 July 2015. The individual grant agreements will then be prepared by the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA) and signed with the project beneficiaries in the second half of 2015. (Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5269_en.htm

Emissions from medium combustion plants: agreement with EP confirmed

The Committee of Permanent Representatives (Coreper) of the Council confirmed the agreement with the European Parliament on a new directive to limit the emissions of certain pollutants from medium combustion plants. These new rules are part of the clean air legislative package, which aims at improving air quality in the EU. The [new directive](#) sets emission limit values for certain pollutants, namely sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and dust. These limits will be applied for new and existing combustion plants of medium size (between 1 and 50 MW). The Commission submitted its proposal to the Council and the European Parliament on 18 December 2013 as part of the 'Clean Air Programme for Europe'. The presidency of the Council and the Parliament reached a provisional agreement in a trilogue meeting on 23 June 2015 which has now been confirmed by the Coreper. The new piece of legislation will now be submitted to the European Parliament for a vote at first reading and then to the Council for final adoption. (Source: Europe an Council)

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2015/06/30-medium-combustion-plants/>

European and national skill supply and demand forecasts for 2025

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) has published its [forecast](#) that looks at prospects up to 2025 for employment growth in sectors, the types of job opportunities that may emerge, changes in qualification levels and demographic trends. Cedefop's analyses also show how general European trends mask some sharp differences between member states. In some countries employment is already higher than it was before the economic crisis began in 2008. In others, employment is not forecast to recover to pre-crisis levels even by 2025. Although the business and other services sector will drive

employment growth in the EU overall, it is not the sector with most employment job growth in every country. Similarly, while jobs in the primary sector and manufacturing are expected to fall in the EU overall, some countries should see an increase in jobs in these sectors. In the [UK](#), employment passed its 2008 pre-crisis level in 2013-14 and is forecast to continue to increase. Most employment growth will be in the construction sector, and business and other services. Around 40% of the labour force is expected to have high-level qualifications as the same proportion as in 2013. (Source: Cedefop)
<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news-and-press/news/european-and-national-skill-supply-and-demand-forecasts-2025-now-online>

Greece crisis: Eurozone rules out talks until after referendum

Eurozone finance ministers have ruled out any further talks on a bailout for Greece until the country holds its referendum on Sunday 5 July. Greeks will be asked to accept or reject proposals made by creditors last week, with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras urging a "No" vote. Greek banks did not open this week after the European Central Bank froze their liquidity lifeline. Withdrawals from cash machines are capped at just €60 (£43) a day. Athens missed the deadline for a €1.5bn (£1.1bn) repayment to the International Monetary Fund on Tuesday. Last weekend, the Greek government took the unilateral decision to hold a vote. EU leaders have warned that a "No" vote may see Greece leave the eurozone. A poll cited by euro2day.gr said 47% of people were leaning toward a "Yes" vote, with the "No" camp at 43%. A previous poll suggested the "No" camp had a shrinking lead. (Source: BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-33357382>

France may block EU-Canada trade deal over ISDS

Matthias Fekl, France's Secretary of State for Foreign Trade, said that the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and Canada is unlikely to be ratified in France unless significant changes are made to its investor-state dispute settlement mechanism (ISDS). The EU and Canada signed the free-trade deal at the end of 2013, but it must be ratified by the EU's member states before coming into force in 2018. France and other European countries have expressed concern over the risk that the private arbitration tribunals foreseen

under ISDS would allow multinationals to challenge the policies of democratically elected governments. Paris has proposed a revision of the system that would give states the right to "interpret" any ambiguities as they saw fit. France has also called for the establishment of an "international and multilateral" dispute settlement court for all free trade deals. If accepted, these changes would also apply to the transatlantic trade and investment partnership (TTIP) deal currently under negotiation between the United States and the European Union. (Source: Euractiv)
<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/trade-society/france-may-block-eu-canada-trade-deal-over-isds-315911>

Week ahead

European Parliament – Plenary Session

Monday 6 July

- Debate: Building a Capital Markets Union
- Debate: Resource efficiency: moving towards a circular economy

Tuesday 7 July

- Council and Commission Statements: Review of the Latvian Presidency
- Debate: Market Stability Reserve to the Union greenhouse gas emission trading scheme
- Debate: Budget 2016
- Debate: Guidelines for employment policies

Wednesday 8 July

- Key debate: Programme of the activities of the Luxembourgish Presidency
- Key debate: Preparation of the Commission Work Programme
- Debate: Conclusions of the European Council (25-26 June)

