

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 22 July

### EU Commission announces €7 billion funding package for research and innovation

This week European Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn announced a funding package of nearly €7 billion, to kick-start innovation through research. The European Commission's biggest ever such funding package, under the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research, is expected to create around 174,000 jobs in the short-term and nearly 450,000 jobs and nearly €80 billion in GDP growth over 15 years. Grants will promote research to tackle the biggest societal challenges facing Europe and the world. Universities, research organisations and industry will be among more than 16,000 funding recipients. Research and innovation for cleaner, safer and more efficient transport and mobility will get €313 million from the package and €40 million will also be set aside for the "Smart Cities initiative" to help find more efficient ways to use energy and provide urban transport. Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn stated: "Today, Europe is again showing its commitment to putting research and innovation at the top of the political agenda for growth and jobs. EU-wide competition for these funds will bring Europe's best researchers and innovators together to tackle the biggest issues of our time, such as energy, food security, climate change and our ageing population". (Source: European Commission)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/900&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



### Euro leaders agree second Greece bailout and overhaul of rescue fund

This week banks holding Greek government bonds agreed to contribute €37 billion in a fresh rescue totaling €109 billion until 2014. The private sector has agreed to voluntarily contribute to a second bailout after the heads of Europe's biggest banks met with the leaders of the euro zone. German Chancellor Angela Merkel outlined a €37 billion private sector contribution between 2011 and 2014. In addition, a Greek debt repurchasing or buyback, which would raise €12.6 billion, brings investors' total contribution to around €50 billion. Conclusions from this week's talks suggest that between 2011 and 2019, the private sector's total contribution to a Greek rescue could amount to €106 billion. Bankers and eurozone leaders agreed that Greece would repurchase its debt on the secondary market and banks with Greek debt on their books would be forced to accept a discount in the face value of their holdings. French President Nicolas Sarkozy said the deal had pulled the euro zone back from the brink of disaster and laid foundations for the creation of an EU economic government, stating: "By the end of the summer, Angela Merkel and I will be making joint proposals on economic government in the euro zone. Our ambition is to seize the Greek crisis to make a quantum leap in eurozone government". (Source: EurActiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/euro-finance/banks-shoulder-37bn-fresh-greek-bailout-news-506709>

## EU Commission approves seven biofuel schemes

The European Commission has this week named the first seven biofuel certification schemes to win its approval. Fuels certified under the voluntary schemes will be assumed to meet EU sustainability criteria and can be counted towards its biofuel targets. Another 18 schemes are being considered by the commission. The seven approved so far were the first to apply and a second batch of approvals will be announced in October this year. (Source: ENDS)

<http://www.endseurope.com/26763/commission-approves-seven-biofuel-schemes?referrer=bulletin&DCMP=EMC-ENDS-EUROPE-DAILY>



## Week ahead

### European Commission

No relevant activity.

### Council of Ministers

No relevant activity.

### European Parliament

In recess until 29 August