

EU Investment fund to launch in autumn

The EU's jobs and growth fund is to be launched in early autumn, a little under a year after it was announced by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. The Commission made the announcement this week after the signature of a cooperation agreement with the European Investment Bank on how the €315bn plan should be implemented. The commission also adopted a paper on the role of national promotional banks in the European Fund for Strategic Investments, which has also been dubbed the 'Juncker plan'. Together with the EIB and the European Investment Fund (EIF), national promotional banks will be part of the chain for financing projects at the local, national or cross-border level.

(Source: EUObserver)

<https://euobserver.com/economic/129738>

TTIP 10th round draws to a close

A low-key tenth round of talks on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership concluded last week. Tariffs and public procurement – two critical components of the TTIP negotiations – were not discussed. A political stocktake meeting between Commissioner Malmström and USTR Mike Froman, pencilled in for the second half of September, will be critical to help move these two topics forwards. Negotiations to tackle regulatory issues that affect trade at the sector level continue to progress slowly but steadily. Linked to this, the 'Better Regulation Package' published by the European Commission in May is expected to have a positive impact, given TTIP will include some cross-cutting 'regulatory coherence' commitments. The next key date is the political stocktake between Commissioner Malmström and USTR Mike Froman prior to the next negotiation round in October.

(Source: CBI)

<http://news.cbi.org.uk/news/july-update-ttip-10th-round-draws-to-a-close/>

Eurozone inflation outlook brighter

A ECB survey has shown that the inflation outlook for the euro area is improving as growth picks up and the effects of the European Central Bank's policy measures feed through into the economy. According to the ECB's regular quarterly survey of professional forecasters, eurozone inflation is expected to average 0.2% this year and then pick up to 1.3% in 2016 and 1.6% in 2017, moving closer to the central bank's target of just under 2%. The 2015 and 2016 figures represent a slight upward revision from the previous survey in the second quarter.

(Source: EU Business)

<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/ecb-eurozone.13fe/>

Greece crisis: MPs pass bailout reforms

Greece has taken steps towards a bailout after its parliament passes a second set of reforms. The passage of the measures means that negotiations on an €86bn European Union bailout can begin. The reforms include changes to Greek banking and an overhaul of the judiciary system.

(Source: BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-33631751>



Francois Hollande calls for strengthened eurozone

French President Francois Hollande has called for a stronger and more harmonised eurozone. He called for a vanguard of countries that would lead the eurozone, which should have its own government, a 'specific budget' and its own parliament. French Prime Minister Manuel Valls Sunday said the vanguard should include the six founding countries of the EU: France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

(Source: EU Observer)

<https://euobserver.com/economic/129695>

Obama urges UK to stay in EU

US president Barack Obama has repeated his call that the UK remain a member of the European Union. "Having the United Kingdom in the European Union gives us much greater confidence about the strength of the transatlantic union and is part of the cornerstone of institutions built after World War Two that has made the world safer and more prosperous", Obama said in an interview with the BBC, broadcast on Thursday (23 July). "We want to make sure that the United Kingdom continues to have that influence," he added. His remarks are a repeat of what he said in January 2013, when he said "that the United States values a strong UK in a strong European Union".

(Source: EU Observer)

<https://euobserver.com/foreign/129759>

Week ahead

The European Parliament is in summer recess until 1 September 2015.

