

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 5 September

### Juncker starts interviews for candidates for Commissioner

President-elect Jean-Claude Juncker has begun interviewing each Member State's candidate for Commissioner, before taking a final decision and communicating the list of Commissioners-designate to the Council of the European Union. The purpose of these interviews is to establish each candidate's ability to serve as a European Commissioner. Juncker has already interviewed Federica Mogherini, before giving his agreement to the European Council's proposal for her appointment on 30 August, as the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. As the High Representative is at the same time a Vice-President of the European Commission, she – alongside all other Commissioners-designate – will be auditioned by the European Parliament before it votes on the entire College. It is expected that Juncker intends to announce the distribution of portfolios and the way he intends to organise the work of the next European Commission soon.

(Source: European Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-14-514\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-514_en.htm?locale=en)

### Industrial producer prices down in euro area

According to estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, in July 2014, compared with June 2014, industrial producer prices fell by 0.1% in the euro area, and by 0.2% in the EU28. Prices rose by 0.2% in June in the euro area and by 0.1% in the EU28. In July 2014, compared with July 2013, industrial producer prices decreased by 1.1% in the euro area and by 1.3% in the EU28. The largest decreases in industrial producer prices were observed in Belgium (-0.9%), Denmark (-0.8%), Greece (-0.7%) and the United Kingdom (-0.6%). The highest increases were seen in Estonia and Cyprus, with +1.7% and +1.1% respectively.

(Source: European Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STAT-14-131\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STAT-14-131_en.htm?locale=en)

### Mogherini and Tusk get top EU jobs

EU leaders have appointed Poland's Donald Tusk as European Council President and Italy's Federica Mogherini as EU foreign policy chief. Ms Mogherini, a centre-left politician and Italy's foreign Minister, will replace the UK's Catherine Ashton. The full-time appointments mean that the EU's three top jobs are now filled. Mr Tusk and Ms Mogherini will work closely with the new European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker. Mr Tusk will serve for two-and-a-half years (renewable) starting on 1 December, while Ms Mogherini's term, starting on 1 November, is five years. The European Parliament's approval is required for all 28 members of the new Commission, and the EU foreign policy chief, officially called the High Representative, is also a vice-president of the Commission.

(Source: BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-28989875>

### Priorities of the Italian Presidency on international trade

The International Trade (INTA) Committee have met to discuss the priorities of the Italian Presidency of the European Council in the area of International Trade. Among the priorities were trade negotiations with the US and Canada, with a focus on reducing the time taken on the TTIP negotiations, and continuing to explore trade policies and negotiations in markets such as Japan, Morocco and China.

(Source: European Parliament)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/inta/home.html>

### Week ahead

#### Council of Ministers

Friday 12 September:

Informal Eurogroup meeting – Finance Ministers from the Eurozone will convene to discuss economic and financial issues linked with the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)