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## Implementation of EU trade and investment agreements

This week, the EU's Trade Policy Committee gathered for an informal meeting in Riga. The representatives of Member States and the European Commission discussed the implementation of EU trade and investment agreements with a special focus on the areas where cooperation between Member States and EU institutions would enable businesses to fully take advantage of opportunities offered by the agreements. The Committee also exchanged views on issues of current importance in regard to the EU's trade and investment relations with China.

(Source: Council of the European Union)

<https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/1224-implementation-of-eu-trade-and-investment-agreements-discussed-at-the-informal-meeting-of-the-trade-policy-committee-full-members-in-riga>

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## CBI - Access to finance is a priority for CMU

The Capital Markets Union (CMU) is one of the European Commission's top priorities and it is one of Europe's largest major financial markets reform since the banking crisis of 2008. In a recent meeting with Lord Jonathan Hill, European Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, the CBI discussed its preliminary views on the CMU. The CBI called for a focus on initiatives that could improve access to finance for growing medium-sized firms in the short to medium-term. During the discussions, the CBI agreed with the Commission that the first step of this initiative should be to understand the barriers to the capital market, particularly for mid-sized firms.

(Source: CBI)

<http://news.cbi.org.uk/news/access-to-finance-is-a-cbi-priority-for-cmu/>

## IMF calls for economies to work to together to avoid decade of low growth

Christine Lagarde, the head of the International Monetary Fund, has called on governments to make the next decade one of sustainable and inclusive growth that cuts national debt burdens and tackles high unemployment. Ms Lagarde warned that developed and emerging economies still suffering the after-effects of the 2008 crash must collaborate better to avoid an era of low growth. Speaking ahead of the Washington-based organisation's spring conference next week, Lagarde welcomed a recovery in the US and UK, which she said was "firming up", but voiced concerns about the eurozone and pointed to Russia and Brazil as major trading nations in economic trouble.

(Source: The Guardian)

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/apr/09/economies-must-work-together-avoid-decade-low-growth-imf-boss>

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## OECD – Eurozone growth momentum strengthening

OECD data released this week has shown that growth momentum is strengthening in the eurozone, while China's economic expansion is slowing. The OECD figures will come as a relief to the European Central Bank, which recently launched a 1.1-trillion-euro (\$1.2-trillion) bond buying programme to boost sluggish growth and ward off deflation. China's economy expanded 7.4% last year, the worst result since 1990, and earlier this month leaders lowered this year's target to approximately 7%. For other emerging markets, the OECD's composite leading indicators CLIs point to slowing growth momentum in Brazil and Russia, and firming growth in India.

(Source: EurActive)

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/euro-finance/oecd-eurozone-growth-momentum-strengthening-313656>

# Tony Blair warns of EU chaos in case of referendum on Europe

Tony Blair entered the UK General Election campaign this week warning that Britain would face a period of instability if it came to a referendum on Europe. His statement was backed by Business for New Europe (BNE). BNE said a vote to quit the EU could force some companies that use Britain as a European base to leave the UK. The group warned that businesses would hold back on investment in Britain because of the uncertainty created by the prospect of the referendum.

(Source: The Guardian)

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/apr/07/british-business-leaders-back-tony-blair-warning-over-possible-eu-exit>



## Week ahead

### European Commission

Monday 13 April

- Juncker's Investment Plan – the agenda can be found [here](#).

Tuesday 14 April

- Setting the agenda for a sustainable future – the road to the UN summit on the Post 2015 agenda

Wednesday 15 April

- An Investment Plan for Europe: joining forces – the Committee of Regions will bring together policy makers and regional and local representatives to assess the Investment Plan from a local perspective. The programme can be found [here](#).

### European Parliament

Monday 13 April

- INTA:
  - Exchange of views with Commissioner of Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, Jyrki Katainen.
  - Recommendations to the Commission on the negotiations for TTIP
- ENVI:
  - Report on the ongoing interinstitutional negotiations on the establishment and operation of a market stability reserve for the Union greenhouse gas emission trading scheme and amendment to the ETS Directive
  - Reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants – consideration of draft report
- TRAN – European Fund for Strategic Investments

Tuesday 14 April

- INTA – Exchange of views on the EU-China trade relations with Yang Yanyi, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China
- ENVI :
  - Amendment to the fuel quality directive and the renewable energy directive
  - European Fund for Strategic Investments – Adoption of draft opinion
  - Recommendations to the Commission on the negotiations for TTIP
  - Resource efficiency: moving towards a circular economy
- TRAN – Implementation of the 2011 White Paper on Transport: taking stock and the way forward to sustainable mobility