



4PILLARS

For **P**romoting an **I**nnovative **mu**Lti-**L**evel
goveRnance **S**ystem of EUSAIR

Online Magazine

April 2016



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Brussels, 5 April 2016 High level Conference: “Attracting investment in tourism”

This High Level Conference was organised by the European Commission with a special focus on two priority subjects for EU tourism:

- improving the business environment to attract more investment and to better use EU funds to boost the competitiveness of the sector;
- raising awareness about the investment needs to boost skills and mobility of the tourism workforce.

This event focused on financing, upgrading skills and improving the business environment to strengthen the competitiveness of the EU tourism industry which is, without any doubt, one of the most important in the world. Furthermore, Europe itself is the most popular tourist destination. By combining top tourist destinations and a high quality services, the European Union stays competitive in the global tourism market. But in order to further compete with emerging markets, especially the Asian ones,

Europe has to develop its potentials. The EU should therefore attract investments in the tourist sector to boost its competitiveness and increase the skills of the tourism workforce.

Tourism is a major economic activity in the European Union with a wide-ranging impact on economic growth, employment, and social development. It can be a powerful tool in fighting economic decline and unemployment. Nevertheless the tourism sector faces a series of challenges. The European Commission works to address them with policies and actions.

A number of initiatives has been launched by the EC to diversify and improve the range of tourist products and services such as sustainable tourism, accessible tourism, tourism for seniors, and low-season tourism. The European Commission also ensured some initiatives that are going to improve

the mobility and skills of workers - particularly IT skills - and help tourism entrepreneurs to manage their businesses.

Keynote speakers of the event included three Commissioners: Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, as well as Corina Cretu, Commissioner for Regional Policy, and:

- Members of the European Parliament, policy-makers at EU, national and regional level, including Ministers and Presidents of the Regions;
- Representatives of international organisations, industry, business and trade associations;
- Representatives from academia.

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Brussels, 7 April 2016

Targeted Call on Eusair Project Proposals Admitted to the Quality Assessment

The Joint Monitoring Committee of the IPA Adriatic CBC Programme, by written procedure No. 4-2016, approved the final list of project proposals admitted to the quality assessment.

TARGETED CALL ON EUSAIR		
List of projects proposals admitted to the Quality Assessment		
Priority and Measure	Admitted to the quality assessment	Not admitted to the quality assessment
Measure 1.1	4	1
Measure 1.2	2	
Measure 1.3	1	
Measure 1.4	2	
Measure 2.1	2	
Measure 2.2	2	
Measure 2.3	2	
Measure 2.4	7	1
Measure 3.1	1	
Measure 3.2	6	
Measure 3.3	3	

Under the Measure 1.4, the project proposal 4PILLARS: For Promoting an Innovative multi-Level governance System of EUSAIR submitted by Molise

Region, as Lead Applicant, was admitted to the quality assessment step.



Brussels, 7 April 2016

“European Commission presents report on nuclear safety investments”

The European Commission presented its Communication on a Nuclear Illustrative Programme (PINIC) at the beginning of April. The PINIC is a non-legislative document periodically presented by the Commission under Article 40 of the Euratom Treaty, providing an overview of investments in the EU in all stages of the nuclear lifecycle.

In addition, this PINIC highlights the estimated financing needs related to nuclear power plants’ decommissioning and to the management of radioactive waste and spent fuel.

The Vice-President of the Commission responsible for the Energy Union, Maroš Šefčovič, said in a statement that the PINIC contributes to the implementation of the Energy Union strategy, by looking into relevant Member States’ investments from the perspective of safety, security of supply, diversification, technological and industrial leadership.

According to the report, the nuclear fleet in Europe is aging and significant investments are needed for a lifetime extension of some reactors (and related safety improvements), for expected decommissioning activities and for the long-term storage of nuclear waste. Investments are also needed to replace existing nuclear plants, some of which could be spent on new nuclear plants. The total estimated investments in the nuclear fuel cycle between 2015 and 2050 are projected at between EUR 650 billion and EUR 760 billion. The Commission predicts a decline in nuclear generation capacity at EU level up to 2025, taking



into account the decisions of some Member States to phase out nuclear energy or to reduce its share in their energy mix. This trend would be reversed by 2030 as new reactors are predicted to be connected to the grid and the life time extensions of others will be pursued. Nuclear capacity would increase slightly and remain stable at between 95 and 105 GWe by 2050.

The Commission also presented a recommendation to EU countries concerning the application of Article 103 of the Euratom Treaty. The recommendation requires EU countries to have the Commission’s opinion on agreements with non-EU countries on nuclear matters (Intergovernmental Agreements) before concluding them. This recommendation aims to make that process more efficient by clarifying the key aspects and requirements that EU countries have to take into account when negotiating such agreements, in particular regarding the new directives on nuclear safety and the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

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Strasbourg, 14 April 2016

“Passenger Name Records (PNR): EU approves anti-terror plan to collect air travellers info”

European Parliamentarians approved the “Passenger Name Record” (PNR) law on Thursday 14 April 2016, allowing the share of airline passenger information, in a historical vote in Strasbourg Plenary. The new directive regulates the use of Passenger Name Record (PNR) data in the EU for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime, that nations hope to use to track foreign fighters travelling to and from conflict areas like Syria and who might pose a danger in Europe.

The “PNR” law was approved at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, by 461 votes to 179, with nine abstentions. It will oblige airlines to hand national authorities passengers’ data for all flights from third countries to the EU and vice versa, in order to help the authorities to fight terrorism and serious crime. The PNR law will require airlines to share passenger information such as names, itinerary, travel dates, payment methods and phone numbers with authorities in EU countries so that officials can detect suspicious behavior.

Data is provided by passengers at the time of booking, check-in or boarding, and will be collected on



any flights entering or leaving the EU and on flights between member countries. All informations will be stored and kept for five years, but identifying details like name, address and contact details will be masked out after six months to protect people’s identities.

The aim of the directive is to detect, for example, persons who have not been flagged by authorities as posing a threat but whose travel patterns seem suspicious. One country can then alert another and thus possibly prevent terror acts.

The adoption of the law still has to get the Council of the Europe-

an Union’s approval. After its entry into force, EU member countries will have two years to turn it into national law and apply technical measures needed to imbed it in their national systems. The current jurisdiction will apply to flights to and from the EU, but member states will be allowed to apply them to flights within the bloc as well.

EU nations hope now to use this law to track foreign fighters travelling to and from conflict areas like Syria and who might pose a danger in Europe.

www.europarl.europa.eu

www.eu-events.eu





Tehran, 16 April 2016 EU high-level delegation to visit Iran

Representative and Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP) Federica Mogherini met Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Tehran. European Commission representatives present they met with their Iranian counterparts.

The two sides taking stock of their long standing relations, based upon mutual respect and interests, reiterated their intention to develop a broad and comprehensive agenda for bilateral cooperation.

It was stated that the following shared and overarching objectives are vital for the promotion of EU-Iran relations:

- Ensuring and supporting the full implementation of the JCPOA in order to further improve and deepen bilateral cooperation;
- Developing cooperative relations in areas of mutual interest to benefit the economic development, human rights, prosperity and well-being of the people of Iran and the EU;
- Promoting regional peace, security and stability as well as peaceful settlement of regional conflicts through



dialogue and engagement.

This high-level visit launched the basis for cooperation with Iran across different sectors ranging from trade, energy, environment, migration, human rights, to education, research and science. Political consultations have been initiated, including on human rights, economic issues, energy, including civil nuclear cooperation as foreseen by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran. Discussions also focused on initiatives in the field of transport, covering in particular aviation safety, on a dedicated dialogue on migration, on the fight against drugs, as well as on increased cooperation on research, education, science and environment.

Sectorial statements were also agreed between the EU Commissioners and their respective Iranian Ministerial counterparts and a joint statement of High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini and Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif was agreed at the end of the meetings.

<http://europa.eu>



Luxembourg City, 18-19 April 2016

EU Foreign Affairs Council discuss the external dimension of migration and capacity building for security and development

On 19 April 2016, the European Council discussed the EU's activities relating to the external aspects of migration. It agreed on the need to put more focus on both the Eastern and the Central Mediterranean routes. Responding to the root causes of migration flows, the European Council requires a broad approach and strong cooperation with countries of origin and transit.

Council action in this area seeks to address the reasons causing people to flee, including conflict, political and economic instability, human rights violations and poverty.

Ministers underlined actions on the fight against traffickers and smugglers, the EU support to Africa through the Emergency Trust Fund, the launch of a series of comprehensive high level dialogues on migration with African countries and the work with countries of the G5 Sahel. The High Representative informed the Council that over the last six months, the EU's naval operation in the Mediterranean Sea had saved 13000 lives, arrested 68 smugglers and neutralised 100 vessels.

With regard to capacity building in support of security and development, the Council discussed the EU's efforts to build capacities in support of security and development, in order to enable partner countries and regional organisations to prevent and manage crises by themselves.

The High Representative informed ministers on progress in developing this policy, concrete projects and funding options. A public consultation launched on 1 April 2016 and ending on 27 May 2016 is expected to lead to a legislative proposal addressing these issues. The High Representative also outlined her plans towards a new EU-wide strategic framework for supporting security sector reform, in light of the tasking by the FAC in May 2015.

As a result, the Commission work programme 2016 includes a package on capacity building in the security sector, which covers security sector reform and a possible new dedicated instrument for capacity building in support of security and development in third countries.

www.consilium.europa.eu





Brussels, 19 April 2016 First EUSAIR Forum



The 1st Forum of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), co-organised by the European Commission and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia, will take place in Dubrovnik (Croatia) on 12-13 May 2016.

One year and a half after the launch of this EU macro-regional strategy, this event will gather together the representatives of the national, regional and local administrations of the eight participating countries, as well as a wide range of stakeholders (academia, business sector, civil society) to discuss the progress of the Strategy since its endorsement by the European Council in October 2014, and define the way forward.

Representatives of the eight participating countries have now a stable platform where they gather together to define the priorities for their joint work in the four thematic pillars of the Strategy: 1) Blue Growth; 2) Connecting the Region; 3) Environmental Quality; 4) Sustainable Tourism.

A plenary session will be devoted to discuss and analyse the challenges linked to good and multi-level governance. Several project ideas and proposals of action to be implemented in the EUSAIR framework will be

put on the table, having in mind the need to improve the governance capacity as well as the need to involve regional and local authorities, the private sector and non-profit organisations.

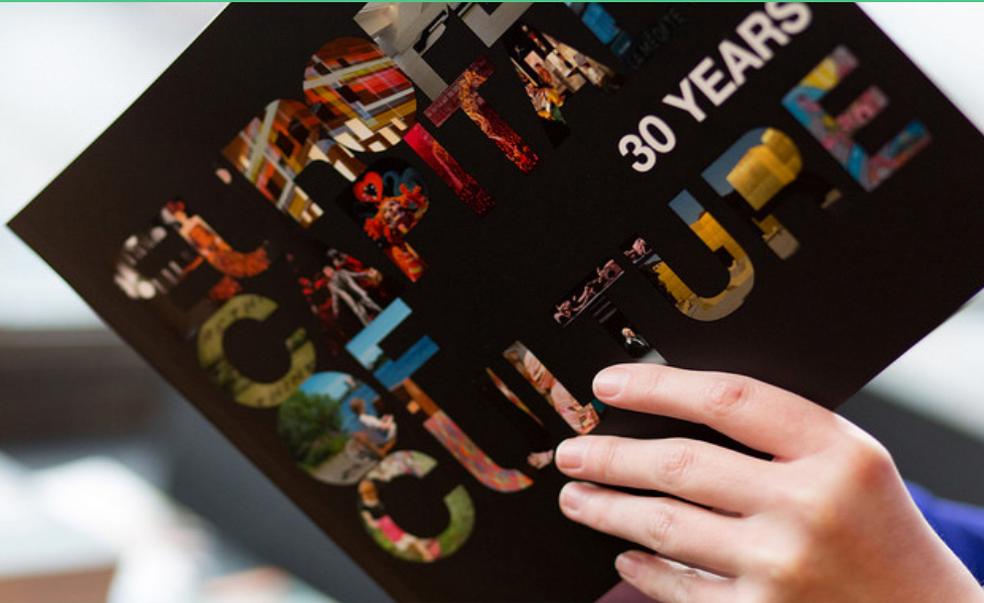
The Foreign Ministers and the national authorities responsible for the EU funds of the States involved, as well as the EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, will be among the speakers of the conference.

The event provides ample possibilities for networking, and represents a great opportunity to reach out to a wide range of stakeholders from the Region, including national, regional and local administrations, the business sector, the academia and the civil society at large.

www.adriatic-ionian.eu



Bruxelles, 19-20 April 2016 “The European Culture Forum”



The European Culture Forum, the biennial event organised by the European Commission to take stock of the implementation of the European agenda for culture, took place in Brussels on 19-20 April.

This year’s Forum, also a major networking opportunity, focused on how talent and creativity can boost innovation, growth and jobs; the digital single market; social cohesion and intercultural dialogue; and how culture can strengthen Europe on the global scene.

Several European commissioners and high-level representatives from the public and private sectors attended the event. Highlights included:

- the announcement by Tibor Navracsics, education and culture commissioner, that a proposal to make 2018 the European Year of Cultural Heritage will be discussed

by the European Parliament and Council. It is not yet known whether a specific budget will be allocated to this in 2016;

- a statement by Silvia Costa MEP (S&D, IT), chair of the European Parliament’s committee on culture and education, in which she reaffirmed her conviction that culture should be a horizontal issue across the European Commission’s strategies, and asked the Commission to develop new policies and programmes adapted to the specific needs of the cultural sector;
- a request by Dario Franceschi

ni, Italy’s minister of culture, to establish an Erasmus programme for artists;

- the announcement by Federica Mogherini, EU high representative and European Commission vice president, of the launch in May of a strategy for culture in EU external relations;
- a speech by Günther Oettinger, European commissioner responsible for the digital economy and society, in which he emphasised the need to facilitate citizens’ access to content online.

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22 April 2016

“Paris Agreement signing ceremony in New York: the EU calls for swift ratification”



The European Union signed the Paris Agreement on climate change today in New York. The signing ceremony, convened by UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, follows the adoption of the world’s first universal climate change agreement by 195 countries in Paris on 12 December 2015. On 22 April 2016, 175 States signed the Paris Agreement, and 15 States deposited instruments of ratification.

Signing the Paris Agreement indicates the intention of a Party to the Convention to take steps to express its consent to be bound by the Agreement. A separate act is required to express a Party’s consent to be bound. This act consists of the deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Depositary.

The EU was the first major economy to table its commitment in the run up to the Paris climate conference (COP21) and now looks forward to the swift ratification and entry into force of the Agreement. On behalf of President Jean-Claude Juncker, the Vice-President of the Commission responsible for the Energy Union, Maroš Šefčovič, and the Climate Action and Energy Commissioner, Miguel Arias Cañete, attended the high-level ceremony. Vice-President Šefčovič and Dutch Environment Minister Sharon Dijksma signed the agreement on behalf of the EU and Commissioner Arias Cañete delivered the official statement on behalf of the EU.

During the visit to New York, Vice-President Šefčovič had a bilateral meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and with Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Director Achim Steiner to follow up on the COP21 Business Summit. He also met Michael Bloomberg, UNSG Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change to discuss further synergies between the Covenant of Mayors and the UN-led Compact of Mayors, underlining the importance that local actors play in the global fight against climate change.

Commissioner Arias Cañete attended the special meeting of the High Ambition Coalition, the alliance of developing and developed nations that was instrumental in securing a successful outcome at the Paris climate conference in December 2015.

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UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION **ClimaspHERE**

The Paris Agreement: 101

On April 22nd – Earth Day – leaders representing more than 100 countries will gather at the United Nations in New York to sign the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The event is expected to be the largest single-day signing in the history of international accords.

But what does it all mean?

THE AGREEMENT: IN 3 STEPS

- ✓ **Adoption by negotiators at COP21**
December 2015
- **Signing ceremony at UN headquarters**
April 22, 2016
- **Joining on at the national level by 55 countries representing 55% of the world's emissions**
Date TBD



Bruxelles, 27 April 2016

“Environmental sustainability of livestock production”



On the 27th of April 2016, at the European Parliament it was organised a debate on the environmental sustainability of livestock production, as part of the trilogy “Sustainable EU Livestock: Actions Towards an Innovative, Climate-Smart and Competitive Future”.

The debate was co-hosted by MEP Michela Giuffrida (S&D), MEP Jasenko Selimovic (ALDE), MEP Franc Bogovic (EPP) and MEP Daniel Dalton (ECR).

In the light of an estimated 60% increase in global demand for high quality animal protein such as milk, meat and eggs by 2050, Europe has a major role to realize food and nutritional security in a sustainable way. Crucial elements to address this challenge are promoting healthy diets and lifestyles, and sustainable consumption patterns (i.e. addressing malnutrition and overconsumption), as well as tackling waste. However, it is essential to look into additional solutions to make livestock production more efficient and sustainable.

This debate aimed at targeting the following topics:

- Improve the impact of livestock on the environment and climate;
- Foster innovation in R&D, policy and at the farm, as well as a knowledge-based livestock sector.

www.eu-events.eu





Bruxelles, 29 April 2016

Commission adopts proposal by social partners to improve the working conditions in the fishing sector

The European fisheries industry is the fourth largest in the world. The fisheries industry provides jobs for over 100,000 people in the EU. Sea fishing is a cross-border sector which operates worldwide. Accordingly, fishing vessels registered in or sailing under the flag of an EU Member State also operate outside the territorial waters of the EU Member State concerned.

Fishermen often live and work for days on board of the vessel in difficult circumstances with heavy equipment. The accident and injury rate in the sector is high compared to other sectors.

The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a Directive which aims at improving the working conditions for workers in the fishing sector.

This proposal, based on an agreement of the European sectoral social partners which provides for a higher level of protection of EU fishermen, will help to reduce the risks that fishermen face at work.

In 2013, the EU social partners in the fishing sector reached an agreement, which proposed to align EU law with the 2007 “Work in Fishing” Convention of



the International Labour Organisation (ILO); it contains global minimum standards concerning the living and working conditions of fishermen (employment relationship, minimum age, working time, health and safety, and a right to social protection and medical care).

The proposed Directive will improve the living and working conditions of fishermen.

It includes minimum requirements for: work on board (e.g. minimum age, medical certificate, information in the employment contract); conditions of service (working time limits, right of repatriation); accommodation and food; occupational safety and health protection, including medical treatment on board and ashore.

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