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EU NEWS YOU CAN USE

European Commission in Ireland



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Top News

NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Ireland's recovery and resilience plan

The European Commission has endorsed Ireland's recovery and resilience plan. Ireland is set to receive almost €1 billion in grants under the Plan of which 42% will go to climate objectives and 32% to digital objectives. Commission President Ursula von der Leyen was in Dublin last Friday where she presented the Commission's assessment of Ireland's plan to Taoiseach Micheál Martin. She said: "The Irish plan presents a well-balanced mix of reforms and investments that address the key challenges facing Ireland. It places a particularly strong emphasis on the green and digital transitions, with investments in sustainable rail transport in Cork, and the connectivity of rural schools across the country."



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Statement by Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič following the announcement by the UK government regarding the Northern Ireland Protocol

In a statement issued following this week's announcement by the UK government regarding the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič said: "We take note of the statement made by Lord Frost today. We will continue to engage with the UK, also on the suggestions made today. We are ready to continue to seek creative solutions, within the framework of the Protocol, in the interest of all communities in Northern Ireland. However, we will not agree to a renegotiation of the Protocol."

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Commission overhauls anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism rules

The European Commission this week presented new proposals to counter money laundering and terrorism financing. The proposals include: a new EU supervisory agency; a single set of EU rules that include crypto-assets; a €10,000 limit on cash transactions; and a differentiated risk approach to non-EU nations: black & grey lists. Commissioner Mairead McGuinness said: "Money laundering poses a clear and present threat to citizens, democratic institutions, and the financial system. The scale of the problem cannot be underestimated and the loopholes that criminals can exploit need to be closed."



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Ensuring smooth air travel while checking EU Digital COVID Certificates: new guidelines for Member States

The European Commission has issued guidelines for EU Member States on the best ways to check the EU Digital Covid Certificate before travel, ensuring the smoothest possible experience for air passengers and staff alike. To avoid duplication, i.e. checks by more than one actor (airline operators, public authorities etc.), the Commission recommends a 'one-stop' verification process prior to departure, involving coordination between authorities, airports and airlines.

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Other news

Coronavirus: Commission steps up research funding with €120 million for 11 new projects to tackle the virus and its variants

The European Commission has short-listed 11 new projects worth €120 million from Horizon Europe, the biggest European research and innovation programme (2021-2027), for supporting and enabling urgent research into the coronavirus and its variants. Three of the eleven projects have Irish partners.

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2021 Rule of Law: EU report shows positive developments in Member States but also points to serious concerns

The European Commission this week published the second EU-wide Report on the Rule of Law with a Communication looking at the situation in the EU as a whole and dedicated country chapters on each Member State. Overall, the report shows many positive developments in Member States, including where challenges identified in the 2020 report are being addressed. However, concerns remain and in certain Member States these have increased, for instance when it comes to the independence of the judiciary and the situation in the media.

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Commission proposes new strategy to protect and restore EU forests

To protect and restore EU forests, the European Commission has put forward a new strategy to increase forest coverage in the EU and to improve the resilience of forests. The Commission also wants to plant an additional three billion trees across Europe by 2030 in full respect of ecological principles – the right tree in the right place for the right purpose.

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EU to share more than 200 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines with low and middle-income countries by the end of 2021

Team Europe (the EU, its institutions and all 27 Member States) is on track to share more than 200 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines with the countries that need them most, by the end of 2021. The vaccines will mainly be distributed through COVAX, which has so far delivered 122 million doses to 136 countries.

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EU launches WTO dispute against discriminatory procurement by Russian State-owned enterprises

The EU is requesting consultations with Russia in the World Trade Organization (WTO) regarding certain Russian measures that restrict or prevent EU companies from selling goods and services to Russian State-owned enterprises and other entities through procurement for commercial purposes. These practices seem to be contrary to WTO rules which require that Russia may not discriminate against foreign companies in this area.

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EU-UK relations: Commission proposes draft mandate for negotiations on Gibraltar

The European Commission has adopted a Recommendation for the opening of negotiations for an EU-UK agreement on Gibraltar. Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič said: "By putting forward this draft mandate, we are honouring the political commitment we made to Spain to start the negotiations of a separate agreement between the EU and the UK on Gibraltar. This is a detailed mandate, which aims to have a positive impact for those living and working on either side of the border between Spain and Gibraltar, while protecting the integrity of the Schengen Area and the Single Market."

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Commission adopts proposal for a Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe

The European Commission has adopted a proposal for "A Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe". The proposal defines shared priority areas for joint action in support of the European Research Area (ERA), sets out the ambition for investments and reforms, and constitutes the basis for a simplified policy coordination and monitoring process through an ERA platform where Member States can share their reform and investment approaches.

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Digital sovereignty: Commission kick-starts alliances for Semiconductors and industrial cloud technologies

The European Commission has launched two new Industrial Alliances: the Alliance for Processors and Semiconductor technologies, and the European Alliance for Industrial Data, Edge and Cloud. The two new alliances will advance the next generation of microchips and industrial cloud/edge computing technologies and provide the EU with the capabilities needed to strengthen its critical digital infrastructures, products and services.



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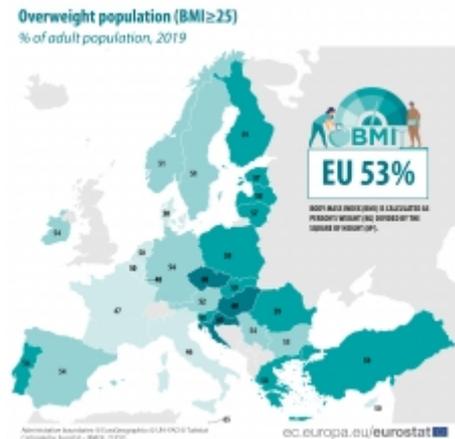
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Statistic of the week

Over half of adults in the EU and in Ireland are overweight

More than half of adults in the EU (53%) and in Ireland (54%) are considered to be overweight according to their body mass index. The figures, from Eurostat, show that Croatia and Malta (both 65%) had the highest share of overweight adults while Italy (46%) and France (47%) had the lowest. They also show that men were more likely to be overweight than women - about 62% of Irish men were overweight compared to 47% of Irish women.



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Agenda

Thursday 22 July: IIEA webinar - Scotland's Future After Brexit

On Thursday evening 22 July, the IIEA will host a webinar discussion with

Mhairi Black, MP with the Scottish Nationalist Party. Mhairi Black is the SNP Member of Parliament for Paisley and Renfrewshire South. At 20 years old she became the youngest MP elected since the Reform Act of 1823 ousting then-Labour Shadow Foreign Secretary, Douglas Alexander. Since then, Mhairi has prominently campaigned for Scottish Independence, equality, social justice and more young people in politics.

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Monday 26 July: Informal video conference of economic and financial affairs ministers

Information on this meeting will be available at the link below.

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Tuesday 27 July: MEDIA Information Webinar

MEDIA Desk Galway will host a free information webinar on the MEDIA sub-Programme of Creative Europe with a focus on the Producer support schemes. These include the following schemes in the CONTENT cluster: European Co-Development; European Slate Funding; and TV & Online Content.

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Friday, 17 September: Online event - 'Try a new language'

The European Commission and Languages Connect are hosting the 'Try a new

language' event during Culture Night, Friday, 17 September. Free 20-minute online taster classes will be offered in the following languages: Chinese, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian and Spanish. Registration will open in August for this event.

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Calls for Tender/Proposals

Grants for digital media actions supporting the Conference on the Future of Europe

The European Parliament has launched a call for proposals text (EP-COMM-SUBV-2021-M-COFOE) to select digital media actions which will contribute to supporting the Conference on the Future of Europe. Successful applications will receive a media grant for co-financing the selected actions. The objective of this call for proposals is to increase citizens' participation in and awareness of the Conference on the Future of Europe. The closing date for applications is 1 September 2021.

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Public consultations

Accessible web & digital content for people with disabilities – review of EU rules

The Commission has launched a public consultation on the review of the Web Accessibility Directive. Since 23 June 2021, all public sector websites and mobile apps in the EU have the legal obligation to be accessible to people with disabilities. The last step is now to review the application of the Directive in practice. The consultation will be open until 25 October 2021.

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Job opportunities

21/07/2021

Editor at Eurofound, Dublin

The Dublin-based European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) is recruiting for the post of Editor. The core responsibility of this role is ensuring the quality of English-language publications for print and web. Applicants must be EU citizens, fluent in at least 2 languages - including an excellent level of English - and have relevant experience and appropriate technical skills. The deadline for applications 8 August 2021.

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ICT officer posts at the European Securities and Markets Authority, Paris

The European Securities and Markets Authority in Paris has launched a recruitment procedure to fill a number of positions in its Resources Department (ICT Unit). The deadline for applications is 12 August 2021.

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