



European  
Commission

United Stronger  
**Europe**

Open

United

Open

Stronger

European Commission  
2010-2014

*A Record of Achievements*

## European Commission 2010-2014

### A Record of Achievements

European Commission

Directorate-General for Communication

Publications

1049 Brussels

BELGIUM

Manuscript completed in April 2014

Photographs: © European Union unless otherwise indicated

The first picture of the college (taken on 18th December 2013 in front of the College meeting room in Brussels) reflects the composition of the European Commission at this point in time. During this mandate, Commissioner Borg (MT) replaced Commissioner Dalli on 28th November 2012, and Commissioner Mimica (HR) joined at the time of Croatian accession to the European Union on 1st July 2013. The last picture is the College in its meeting room in Strasbourg.

66 pp. - 21 x 29.7cm

ISBN 978-92-79-37457-9

doi:10.2775/37809

© European Union, 2014.

Reproduction is authorised. For any use or reproduction of individual photos, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holders.



# European Commission 2010-2014



*José Manuel Barroso,  
President of the  
European  
Commission  
(Portugal)*



*Catherine Ashton,  
Vice-President and  
High Representative of  
the Union for Foreign  
Affairs and Security  
Policy  
(United Kingdom)*



*Viviane Reding,  
Vice-President and  
Commissioner for  
Justice, Fundamental  
Rights and Citizenship  
(Luxembourg)*



*Joaquín Almunia,  
Vice-President and  
Commissioner for  
Competition Policy  
(Spain)*



*Siim Kallas,  
Vice-President and  
Commissioner for  
Mobility and  
Transport  
(Estonia)*



*Neelie Kroes,  
Vice-President and  
Commissioner for the  
Digital Agenda  
(The Netherlands)*



*Antonio Tajani,  
Vice-President and  
Commissioner for  
Industry and  
Entrepreneurship  
(Italy)*



*Maroš Šefčovič,  
Vice-President and  
Commissioner for  
Inter-Institutional  
relations and  
Administration  
(Slovakia)*



*Olli Rehn,  
Vice-President and  
Commissioner for  
Economic and Monetary  
Affairs and the Euro  
(Finland)*



*Janez Potočnik,  
Commissioner for  
Environment  
(Slovenia)*



*Andris Piebalgs,  
Commissioner for  
Development  
(Latvia)*



*Michel Barnier,  
Commissioner for  
Internal Market and  
Services  
(France)*



*Androulla Vassiliou,  
Commissioner for  
Education, Culture,  
Multilingualism and  
Youth  
(Cyprus)*



*Algirdas Šemeta,  
Commissioner for  
Taxation, Customs,  
Statistics, Audit and  
Anti-Fraud  
(Lithuania)*



*Karel De Gucht,  
Commissioner for  
Trade  
(Belgium)*



*Máire  
Geoghegan-Quinn,  
Commissioner for  
Research, Innovation  
and Science  
(Ireland)*



*Janusz Lewandowski,  
Commissioner for  
Financial Programming  
and Budget  
(Poland)*



*Maria Damanaki,  
Commissioner for  
Maritime Affairs and  
Fisheries  
(Greece)*



*Kristalina Georgieva,  
Commissioner for  
International Coopera-  
tion, Humanitarian Aid  
and Crisis Response  
(Bulgaria)*



*Günther Oettinger,  
Commissioner for  
Energy  
(Germany)*



*Johannes Hahn,  
Commissioner for  
Regional Policy  
(Austria)*



*Connie Hedegaard,  
Commissioner for  
Climate Action  
(Denmark)*



*Štefan Füle,  
Commissioner for  
Enlargement and  
European Neighbour-  
hood Policy  
(Czech Republic)*



*László Andor,  
Commissioner for  
Employment, Social  
Affairs and Inclusion  
(Hungary)*



*Cecilia Malmström,  
Commissioner for  
Home Affairs  
(Sweden)*



*Dacian Cioloș,  
Commissioner for  
Agriculture and Rural  
Development  
(Romania)*



*Tonio Borg,  
Commissioner for  
Health  
(Malta)*



*Neven Mimica,  
Commissioner for  
Consumer Policy  
(Croatia)*



# JOSÉ MANUEL BARROSO

President, European Commission

## A United, Open and Stronger Europe



*“When you find yourself in a storm, the only way out is to stay true to your course. The one thing you don’t do is change direction.”*

*(Jean Monnet)*

Europe has witnessed an unprecedented period of change in the five years since this European Commission took office. The financial crisis evolved into a sovereign debt crisis, an economic crisis and a social crisis, tearing down barriers between European and national politics.

In this time of change, business as usual was no longer an option. If the five years before the start of this Commission were defined by constitutional issues that were formally settled by the introduction of the Lisbon Treaty, then these 5 years have been shaped by the threat of the financial and sovereign debt crisis. In the face of these challenges, we can all be extremely proud that we have kept Europe united, open and made it stronger for the future.

“United”, because we managed to keep Europe together and even enlarge it despite the pressures exerted on our countries; “open”, because we engaged with our international partners through the G20 to define a global response, we kept promoting trade within the European Union

and across the world as a means of growth, and we maintained our commitments to developing countries; “stronger”, because the necessary economic reforms are now being implemented across Europe and our economic governance has been reinforced, in particular in the Euro area, to make Europe’s economies fitter for globalisation.

In doing so, we have built on what is unique about the European Union. Europe is about values. Values like peace, our founding principle, for which we were awarded the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize. Values like unity and diversity, a source of strength to be treasured. Values like solidarity, with our social market economy and our protection of Europeans less fortunate. These values have guided our work. The EU is more than an economic project. It is a political one. It is a community of culture and of shared values and interests essential to forge a common destiny.

## RESPONDING TO THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND PREPARING THE CONDITIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND JOBS

The European Commission has worked tirelessly to avoid a collapse of Europe's economies. The lack of regulation and oversight of the financial markets allowed speculation and credit bubbles to emerge. The subsequent aftershock revealed that many of Europe's Member States were living beyond their means and lacked competitiveness. And whilst our economies were deeply interdependent, we lacked the strong governance framework to prevent unsound policies or to handle the crisis when it hit. Over the past 5 years, the Commission has been a driving force behind the initiatives to put this right.

Today, Europe is protecting citizens and taxpayers through necessary stronger regulation that guarantees savings, makes banks more responsible and limits bankers' risk-taking. We brought fairness back into the system. And we have taken the decisive step – unthinkable before the crisis – to create a Banking Union. As a result, the financial sector is now more regulated; and financial regulators are now better equipped to supervise our banks; to deal with difficult economic developments; and to protect your savings.

We have put in place a system of collective economic and budgetary governance at EU level that ensures that all governments put and keep their public finances in order and that the necessary reforms are undertaken to make and keep our economies competitive. We have come together to create a mechanism that provides loans to those countries that are under most pressure from the markets. The euro has come out of this crisis even stronger, gaining rather than losing members. We

have used all the means at our disposal to keep people in jobs and help those out of work to get back into the labour market, giving special attention to the acute problem of youth unemployment. We have agreed a new EU budget which focuses on investments that help Member States, regions, companies and people. And to boost growth and create jobs further, we have opened up new markets across our continent by further developing the Single Market and defending its four freedoms, and across the world by pursuing ambitious global trade deals.

Beyond the immediate crisis management, we have developed a long term plan to modernise Europe's economies. Our Europe 2020 strategy sets realistic but ambitious targets to return Europe to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The new EU budget seeks to enhance competitiveness through greater focus on research, innovation and infrastructure, with special attention given to connect Europe in transport, energy and digital sectors. We have built on the climate and energy goals for 2020 which were agreed under the previous Commission to set out a framework for 2030. Competitiveness, sustainability and security of supply are at the core of our climate and energy policies. On top of that, in our Blueprint, we have set out a clear vision on how to complete the Economic and Monetary Union.

Jean Monnet said: "I have always thought that Europe would be forged in crisis." We have proven him right and the doubters wrong. We have shown what can be achieved when EU Institutions and Member States work together.



*Responding to the global financial crisis at the G8 at Camp David in 2012, round table: Angela Merkel, Herman van Rompuy, José Manuel Barroso, Yoshihiko Noda, Mario Monti, Stephen Harper, François Hollande, Barack Obama, David Cameron (from behind), Dmitry Medvedev (from behind), (in a clockwise direction starting from the left).*





*José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, with students in Poland (2011).*

## WORKING FOR EUROPE'S CITIZENS

While the economic and financial crisis has been the main challenge over the last five years, we have not lost sight of the need to address the other concerns of Europe's citizens.

The Commission has taken a series of initiatives to guarantee free movement of people, goods, services and capital; to ensure choice and fair competition for consumers and companies; and to increase investment in infrastructure. Thanks to the single market, we have been able to bring down roaming charges even further; to bring fairer prices and rights for travellers and consumers; to agree - after over thirty years of negotiation - the European patent, which introduces savings in cost and time for researchers and businesses; and to improve the visibility of job opportunities across the EU to let you find jobs in other Member States more easily.

It is now more important than ever that the fundamental values on which the Union is built, such as the rule of law, are respected. The Commission has intervened with a number of Member States in recent years to ensure that these fundamental principles are respected and that people's freedoms and rights are fully upheld. And we will continue to do so in a more systematic and robust way through the Rule of Law initiative we have proposed.

Addressing the real issues that matter to people requires the European institutions to focus on the areas where it can provide most value. European cooperation is crucial in many areas but it is not necessary in every area. This Commission has proposed legislation where intervention was required but has also cut red tape to an unprecedented degree, saving European businesses more than €32 billion a year. We have repealed 6000 EU laws since 2005. Europe must be big on the big things and small on the smaller things.

Tackling the key issues of concern to Europe's citizens requires a joined up approach between the different European institutions. The European Commission is the only institution involved in each step of the decision-making process. At the same time, nothing can be achieved without the full engagement of the two sides of the legislative process, because it is the Ministers from national governments and the MEPs who you elect, who together decide on legislation. This Commission has fully invested in making that cooperation work. The democratic process has been enhanced. Each institution has played its role in helping Europe emerge stronger from the crisis.

## GIVING EUROPE A SAY ON THE WORLD STAGE

In an increasingly globalised world, size matters. The economic crisis, global climate change negotiations, concerns over energy security, migration, the Arab Spring and most recently Ukraine have all shown that the EU is only effective if we act together.

The economic crisis has put the spotlight on Europe but it has also demonstrated Europe's ability to exert influence on the international stage. The European Union has set the global standard in many areas, and we have played a leading role in global fora such as the G8/ G7, G20, the WTO and the UN. We have also established a stronger global European presence throughout the world, as well as in our own neighbourhood. And from Africa to Asia, from Latin America to the Pacific and Caribbean, we remain the biggest global aid donor – despite the crisis – and have strengthened our political partnerships.

The EU's 2012 Nobel Peace prize should remind us that the EU stands for peace, hope and stability. None of this should be taken for granted. Ongoing events in Ukraine show how the demon of power politics can rear its ugly head at a moment's notice. Images of young Ukrainians holding European flags as symbols of a brighter, freer future are proof of how much we have achieved. The EU will always support freedom and democracy in its neighbourhood and beyond.



*José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, Herman van Rompuy, President of the European Council, and Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, participated in the award ceremony of the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize to the EU.*



Visit by José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, to a Syrian refugee camp in Jordan (2012).

## RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Perhaps our greatest achievement is *how* we have acted. Let's not forget that some were predicting that a Commission with 27 or 28 Members and an enlarged European Union would not be able to work and take decisions properly. We have proven those predictions wrong. Courageous decisions have been made *together* – united – pointing to a real *communauté de destin* in Europe. As the shared challenge of globalisation brings us closer together and common values bind us ever more tightly, there is a growing realisation that we need to find stronger solutions agreed by all of us. The last five years have shown that we are up to that challenge: Europe can work well at 28, and our institutions have the necessary capacity and experience to adapt, reform and change for the better.

This “Record of Achievements” is only a snapshot of the work done by the College of Commissioners during the past term. We have welcomed a new member – Croatia – to the Union and further expanded membership of the euro to Estonia and Latvia. From fighting youth unemployment to fighting human trafficking; from helping 120 million disaster victims every year to helping Europeans to keep their data secure online, we are creating a united, open and stronger Europe.

# CATHERINE ASHTON

Vice-President and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Promoting peace,  
protecting the  
vulnerable and  
fighting poverty



## CREATING A EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

We have created the new European External Action Service from scratch and embedded it in a more global approach of conducting international affairs.

In a globalised, interconnected world, the EU is stronger when it works together. International issues are not simply limited to foreign policy, military power and sanctions, but require a wide-ranging response on aid, trade and the global economy. The European External Action Service has set its headquarters in Brussels, bringing together parts of the European Commission

and 140 EU delegations worldwide to develop and project European policies and values to give the EU a greater global voice.



*The European External Action Service (EEAS) was created to develop and project European policies and values, and to give the EU a greater global voice.*

## BRINGING TOGETHER ALL OUR RESOURCES TO HAVE A BIGGER GLOBAL IMPACT

We have delivered a comprehensive approach to tackle complex crises in places such as Somalia, by bringing together all our tools, delegations and partners.

It is not enough just to treat the symptoms when a crisis erupts. The EU's comprehensive approach also addresses the root causes by linking diplomacy, security, development and humanitarian efforts. In Somalia, the EU operates on land and on the seas. Since the peak of piracy activities off the coast of Somalia in 2008 and 2009, the number of successful piracy attacks has gone down to almost zero with the help of Operation Atalanta. The EU is one of the main supporters of African peacekeepers in Somalia. The EUTM and Nestor missions have trained thousands of Somali soldiers and coastguards. We also work with Somalia to build democratic structures and support the country's economic development.

With a particular focus on governance, education and the economy, the EU is the largest aid donor to Somalia.



*The EU's comprehensive approach addresses the root causes of crises by linking diplomacy, security, development and humanitarian efforts.*

## SUPPORTING OUR PARTNERS IN TRANSITION

We have pioneered a whole new way of working through the EU Task Force, as in the case of our partners in the Southern Neighbourhood following the Arab Spring, and in Myanmar/Burma.

To make sure that our political, economic and technical support has maximum impact, we need to make sure that our efforts are in line with the reforms and aspirations of the partner countries we are helping. The EU Task Force does exactly that. It has led to a mutually beneficial situation with the EU injecting momentum into reform programmes that help achieve greater stability and prosperity.

In Tunisia, EU financial support of up to €4 billion was made available between 2011 and 2013. Formal talks were launched to establish a new 'Privileged Partnership' covering all areas of mutual interest, and it was agreed to restart negotiations to launch preparations on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement and a Mobility Partnership.

In Myanmar/Burma, several European Commissioners as well as over 100 business leaders

came to evaluate the aid and new trade opportunities following the lifting of sanctions. Based on 3 key areas: business; development and democracy; and civil society, the Task Force has begun a process that will see the EU accompany Myanmar/Burma in its economic and political transformation.



*Myanmar/Burma is an example of the EU aligning its political, economic and technical support structure with the reforms and aspirations of our partner countries in transition.*

# VIVIANE REDING

Vice-President and Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship

A new era for justice  
and fundamental  
rights in Europe



## STRENGTHENING THE EU'S DATA PROTECTION RULES

We have worked hard to strengthen data protection rules.

The European Commission has proposed to have 1 law across the EU and a one-stop shop meaning that companies will only be required to deal with 1 national authority rather than 28 or more. We have also obtained a commitment from Heads of State and Government that an agreement will be reached by the end of 2014.

Replacing 28 national rules and 28 different authorities with a single system will make it simpler and cheaper to do business in the EU, particularly for small and medium-sized businesses. But above all, it will strengthen the protection of individuals' and businesses' data. If companies don't abide by the rules, European regulators will be able to fine them a percentage of their global annual turnover.

Following the US spying scandal, citizens' trust in the way their personal data is handled by big corporations and governments was shattered. Today we are working to rebuild that confidence, proving to European citizens that data protection is made in Europe.



*The Commission is working to rebuild confidence in online security and prove to EU citizens that data protection is made in Europe.*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=5ByVaZ0rg8U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=5ByVaZ0rg8U)

## HELPING WOMEN BREAK THROUGH EUROPE'S GLASS CEILING

We have proposed quotas to get more women on boards.

In 2011, the European Commission called on companies to self-regulate to ensure better gender balance on their supervisory boards. One year later, as nothing had changed, we proposed a law to introduce a 40% procedural quota that ensures women will get a fair chance in the recruitment process.

Between 2003 and 2010, the proportion of women on boards rose by 3.4%. Since October 2010, it has risen by 4 times the previous rate of change (to 18% today). The impact of our proposal for legislation is clear. The European Commission got the ball rolling.

This is not about giving women jobs just because they are women; it is about addressing the fact that women are still being denied jobs simply because they are women. With the help of the EU, this will change.



*The proportion of women on company boards has risen in line with new legislation and actions.*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=OTIP4Ek3WP8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=OTIP4Ek3WP8)

## PROTECTING TAXPAYERS' MONEY WITH THE CREATION OF A EUROPEAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

We have proposed to set up a European Public Prosecutor's Office to make sure every case of suspected fraud against the EU budget is thoroughly investigated.

Currently, fewer than 50% of identified fraud offences are followed up at national level. Since we are all responsible for protecting the EU budget, at a European and at a national level, the European Commission has proposed to create a European Public Prosecutor's Office. It will make sure that national judiciaries can work together with the EU to ensure that information is shared so that every case of suspected EU budget fraud is followed up.

Criminals who steal taxpayers' money from the EU budget should not be allowed to get away with it and the EU has taken a big step to make sure our money is safe in the future.



*The creation of the European Public Prosecutor's Office will ensure a cooperative effort, based on the sharing of information, to target EU budget fraud.*

# JOAQUÍN ALMUNIA

Vice-President and Commissioner for Competition Policy

Making markets  
work better



## ACTING AGAINST CARTELS AND ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR

We have fought against practices which distort fair competition and we have acted to secure compensation for European citizens and companies when competition rules are violated in the EU.

Cartels and abusive behaviour create extra costs for consumers and the whole economy, hampering innovation and competitiveness. Competition enforcement has penalised abuses and cartels in areas such as the financial sector, telecoms and energy.

Legislation enabling European citizens and companies to get money back from offenders will also create a fairer marketplace.

Examples of the European Commission's role in protecting competition for consumers and businesses are:

- preventing unnecessary mergers that would harm consumers, such as Aer Lingus and Ryanair;
- penalising cartels in car parts and illegal agreements between pharmaceutical companies;
- launching investigations into potential abuses by Google and Gazprom.

Year	Fines in €
2010	2 638 125 579
2011	614 053 000
2012	1 875 694 000
2013	1 882 975 000
2014 (<April)	1 405 708 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 416 555 579</b>

*Competition enforcement has penalised abuses and cartels in areas such as the financial sector, telecoms and energy.*



## STATE AID CONTROL IN SUPPORT OF GROWTH

We have modernised our State Aid rules to support growth.

In times of severe constraints and economic difficulties, the European Commission has had to ensure that aid to companies is given where it will have a positive impact on the economy.

Our programme to modernise State Aid rules will further boost economic growth, help improve the efficiency of public spending and safeguard competition in the Single Market. We have ensured that taxpayers' money that has been given to companies will support growth and job creation, and fund public services and research and innovation. In addition, it will make access to finance easier, invest in regions where support is needed, build up energy networks and support the climate change strategy.



*State aid control ensures government interventions do not distort EU competition and trade.*

## REPAIRING THE FINANCIAL SECTOR

By controlling State aid to banks, we have worked to build a healthier and more viable financial sector in the EU.

The financial crisis brought uncertainties to the whole European economy. We worked carefully to make sure that public money given to banks was used to restructure them and make them viable again. We also ensured that the burden for the taxpayer was reduced as far as possible and that non-viable banks would be closed down in an orderly way.

This work helped put the financial sector back to serving the real economy. The European Commission also imposed record fines, totalling

€ 1.7 billion, on banks involved in the LIBOR/ EURIBOR manipulation scandal.

Finally, we have acted against high interchange fees for debit and credit cards. As a result, MasterCard and Visa have agreed to limit these fees for cross-border transactions within the EU. This will greatly benefit consumers.

Year	Case name	Amount in €
2013	Financial Derivatives (LIBOR/EURIBOR)	1 712 468 000
2012	TV and computer monitor tubes	1 470 515 000
2014	Bearings for Cars and Trucks	953 306 000
2010	Airfreight	799 445 000
2010	LCD panels	631 925 000

*The Commission imposed record fines, totalling € 1.7 billion, on banks involved in the LIBOR/EURIBOR scandal.*

# SIIM KALLAS

Vice-President and Commissioner for Mobility and Transport

Faster, safer and  
cleaner transport  
for all



## BUILDING THE MISSING LINKS FOR CROSS-BORDER TRANSPORT IN THE EU

We have set in motion the most revolutionary and radical overhaul of the EU transport network since the 1980s.

Following a proposal by the European Commission, connections across 9 major transport corridors will be built or upgraded. To do this, the European Commission has tripled EU funding for infrastructure investment, which will be spent on connecting 94 main EU ports and 38 airports with rail and road links, upgrading 15 000 km of railway line to high-speed and removing bottlenecks at borders.

Train journeys will be faster, getting to the airport will be quicker, the transportation of goods from ports will be easier, and crossing borders will be smoother.

Efficiency in our transport sector is key, which is why the European Commission is taking steps to manage air traffic better, boost rail services, and create a real single EU transport area serving European citizens and businesses wherever they are.



*The TEN-T network will transform connections, upgrade infrastructure and streamline cross-border transport operations.*

## EXTENDING PASSENGER RIGHTS TO COVER MORE MODES OF TRANSPORT THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD

The EU is the first area in the world to guarantee passenger rights across all forms of transport.

The aviation sector was the first to benefit from rules on passenger rights. Over the last 5 years, the European Commission has worked to extend passenger rights to include passengers travelling by rail, boat, and coach. The EU is now the first area in the world where passengers have guaranteed rights across all forms of transport.

If you don't know your rights, the EU's downloadable app makes it easier to find out about them while you're on the move.

It is now more stress-free than ever to reorganise your journey. More help will be provided if there are long delays, and more access and assistance will be provided for passengers with disabilities or reduced mobility.



*The EU's comprehensive and integrated basic rights package for passengers is available as a downloadable app.*

## GIVING MORE SUPPORT FOR CLEAN POWER

We have promoted the use of cleaner fuel sources like electricity, hydrogen and liquefied natural gas.

The European Commission has put in place measures to get Member States to build more refuelling and recharging points. At the same time, we have insisted on common standards, so it will be possible to drive your electric car across borders without worrying about not being able to recharge it when you reach your destination.

There is funding to reduce pollution in cities and revolutionise the way we get around town. EU co-funded projects have, for example, doubled the number of electric cars in Brighton (UK) and modernised the electric tram system in Zagreb (Croatia).

Public authorities must now account for how fuel-efficient their vehicles are and how much CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted. We are working to make sure

that our air is as clean as possible and that fuel sold across the EU meets a single safety standard.



*VP Kallas launches the clean fuel strategy, to ensure the build-up of alternative fuel stations across Europe with common standards for their design and use.*

# NEELIE KROES

Vice-President and Commissioner for the Digital Agenda

Full steam ahead  
for the digital single  
market



## COMMUNICATING BETTER, FASTER, CHEAPER

Today, Europe is the only continent where everyone can access the internet, wherever they live or travel.

Lowering costs of connecting to the internet, making it possible and affordable for people to make calls while travelling in other EU Member States, and strengthening competition have been major priorities for this Commission. Still, 94 % of travellers say they limit Facebook and other online services due to high roaming charges. This should not happen within a single market. The European Commission is reversing this trend, guaranteeing cheaper communications to consumers and businesses.

The European Commission's initiatives have driven down roaming costs by 50 % for calls and by 93 % for mobile data. The resulting savings are worth € 2.4 billion per year removing barriers and stopping over-charging for roaming.

In addition, all European homes can now have access to a broadband connection and the opportunities it brings, while domestic rates continue to fall within the EU's competitive market.



*Everyone in Europe can access the internet, wherever they are.*

## DIGITAL SKILLS, JOBS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

The EU's support for the digital sector is transforming the European economy and society.

New sectors bring new jobs. The European Commission is helping the EU lead the world's digital race. A major challenge today is to fill the digital employment gap: there will be nearly 1 million unfilled vacancies by 2020, because candidates lack the right skills for the digital economy. To address this, the European Commission has set up the Grand Coalition for Digital Jobs, which will deliver 250 000 new training courses, 100 000 traineeships and thousands of new digital jobs.

In addition, we are removing barriers to cloud computing, a new flexible business tool which can create 2.5 million jobs and boost EU GDP by €160 billion. Its 'Start-up Europe' programme helps ICT and web entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses in the EU with significant fund-

ing on offer. European tech start-ups are booming; the EU app economy is worth €17.5 billion and already employs 1.8 million people.



*The EU is helping the digital entrepreneurs of the future to develop their skills.*

## INVESTING IN DIGITAL RESEARCH

The European Commission is giving the EU a competitive edge by investing in tomorrow's technology.

We are establishing multi-billion euro partnerships to give EU industry the global lead in:

- 5G connectivity — the next generation of mobile, with a thousand times more capacity using 90 % less energy;
- robots that can support older people, health and well-being, food production, transport, the environment and security;
- photonics, for smarter, greener tools from healthcare to home lighting;
- high-performance computing to simulate and fix issues in industry, the environment, healthcare and beyond;
- electronics, to double the value of EU micro-chip production and create 250 000 jobs in Europe;

- exciting, ground-breaking research in tomorrow's transformative technology, from new computers based on the human brain to the new 'wonder material' graphene.



*European industry can benefit from the investment the EU pumps into digital research.*

# ANTONIO TAJANI

Vice-President and Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship

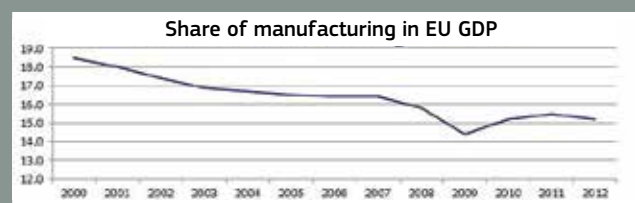
An industrial  
renaissance



## SUPPORTING AN INDUSTRIAL RENAISSANCE

We have launched major initiatives to develop a new European industrial policy and reverse the declining role of manufacturing in the EU.

Industry plays an important role in boosting growth and jobs, representing 80 % of EU exports and 80% of private investment. Each job created in manufacturing leads to, on average, between one and two new jobs in the service sector. The European Commission has successfully put the real economy back on the agenda, with the goal of getting European industry back up to 20 % of EU GDP by 2020, from the current 15.1 %. All Member States have endorsed this strategy 'For a European Industrial Renaissance'. Industrial competitiveness will apply across all our policies. Enterprises now have access to dedicated funds that boost competitiveness and innovation and ease access to credit for small- and medium-sized businesses (through the [COSME](#) programme and loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB)). We have simplified EU laws to support safe and high-quality industrial products and to cut red tape, in particular to help small and medium-sized businesses. We are getting closer to our targets by simplifying procedures so that it takes fewer than 3 days and costs less than € 100 to start up a business.



*Major initiatives to develop a new European industrial policy have helped to reverse the declining role of manufacturing in Europe.*

## “MISSIONS FOR GROWTH” AND INDUSTRIAL DIPLOMACY: OPENING UP OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND THE EU

We have helped businesses to sell their products and services outside the EU.

With 60 % of GDP in 2030 expected to be generated by emerging countries (Brazil, China, India, Mexico, etc.) and only 13% of our small and medium-sized businesses currently exporting outside the EU, we have work to do. With the ‘Missions for Growth’ we have travelled to 17 countries across the world, accompanied by 570 companies from 26 Member States, to open doors and create opportunities across all sectors. The ‘Missions for Growth’ have already led to several business deals and many letters of intent signed on international standards, tourism, small and medium-sized enterprises, space, and industrial cooperation.



*European and Israeli entrepreneurs meet and discuss business opportunities during the Mission for Growth to Israel.*

## SUPPORTING GALILEO AND COPERNICUS: THE RISING STARS OF EU COMPETITIVENESS

We have put 4 satellites into orbit for Galileo and 1 for Copernicus.

There is a lot of potential in the space industry to develop new jobs, improve our technology and improve our knowledge. In 2010, Galileo – the European version of GPS – was a new project. Now, with 4 satellites already in orbit, it can be tested. The schedule of launches will continue in 2014, increasing the number of satellites to 10. This will enable Galileo to provide services, including critical transport and emergency services, better law enforcement, improved border control and safer peace missions.

Our new earth observation system, Copernicus, will help us to tackle climate change, to manage biodiversity in our seas and to help with disaster relief, as in the tragic case of the recent typhoon in the Philippines. The first Copernicus satellite, called Sentinel 1A, has also been successfully launched into orbit.

Independent studies have shown that Galileo could contribute up to €90 billion – and Copernicus up to € 30 billion – to the European economy in its first 20 years.



*Europe's Galileo global satellite navigation system will support a multitude of valuable applications.*

[https://www.youtube.com/user/EUenterprise/videos?view=0&shelf\\_id=2&sort=dd](https://www.youtube.com/user/EUenterprise/videos?view=0&shelf_id=2&sort=dd)

# MAROŠ ŠEFČOVIČ

Vice-President and Commissioner for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration

Keeping the EU machine running smoothly



## A DEMOCRATIC UNION

We have given a direct voice to our citizens and a bigger role to parliaments.

The European Citizens' Initiative allows European citizens to put subjects important to them at the top of the European agenda. If 1 million signatures from at least 7 Member States are collected, the European Commission will examine whether the proposal can be made into an EU law. In March 2014, the first initiative to meet this threshold, 'Right2Water', was accepted by the European Commission.

The people voted into power represent all citizens in all decisions the EU makes. EU laws are adopted only after national governments and the directly-elected European Parliament agree. And national parliaments have the right to say that the European Commission has overstepped its powers by issuing a "yellow card" on draft EU laws, prompting a rethink.



*Vice-President Šefčovič (right) receives confirmation of over 1 million signatures for the Right2Water Initiative.*



## A TRANSPARENT UNION

We have put in place fair and open processes to allow citizens easy access to information.

The level of trust our citizens have in us depends on how transparent we are. We consult interest groups who want to have an influence on the policies we make and we listen to all sides.

This is why we have introduced two initiatives:

- The joint Transparency Register of the European Commission and the European Parliament. This contains data on those lobbying in Brussels and is the largest such register in the world in terms of its scope.
- The new Transparency Portal. This is a 'one-stop shop' with access to all EU-related information.

Both initiatives are getting stronger with time. An estimated 75% of all business-related entities and around 60% of NGOs have already registered. Citizens have the right to know who the EU institutions are talking to, and we want to make sure this is possible.

*“A democratic society is a society with transparent and accountable institutions. Transparency facilitates scrutiny and hence accountability.”*

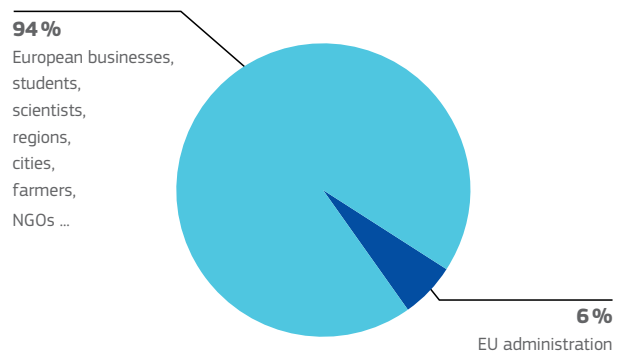
## A COST-EFFECTIVE UNION

The European Commission is reforming itself to provide even better value for money for taxpayers in the EU.

A high-quality EU civil service is necessary in order to promote our collective European interests at home and abroad. But, like national administrations, the EU administration has also had to reform in the face of the economic crisis.

Our reforms have driven down the cost of running the EU, offering significantly improved value for European citizens. The EU administration has always been much smaller than most public administrations in Member States: for example, we are about 40% smaller than the administration of the city of Paris.

EU civil servants have seen their salaries effectively frozen since 2010 and the EU will cut 5% of its staff by 2017. From our budget, just 6% goes to day-to-day administrative work, while the remaining 94% is directly invested in implementing policies for the EU.



*Some 94% of the EU budget is spent on projects in EU Member States and beyond.*

# OLLI REHN

Vice-President and Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Euro

Steering Europe  
out of the crisis,  
building foundations  
for the future



## PROTECTING FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY

The European Commission has acted to protect financial stability and restore fiscal and economic credibility.

The economic crisis has posed the biggest single challenge to our economy and society since World War II, causing severe disruption and anxiety in Europe. For decades, long-standing problems were allowed to grow unchecked in many Member States, until private and public debt became unsustainable. Thanks to decisive policy action and unprecedented European solidarity, the scenario of disorderly state default, with all its devastating social and economic consequences for Europe, has been averted.

We have created the world's largest financial firewall to prevent our Member States from falling into disaster. EU support programmes have given the countries benefiting from financial assistance breathing room to regain stability. Public finances are now on a more sustainable footing and competitiveness and growth fundamentals have been strengthened for the long term.

The EU is now emerging from the crisis and there is global recognition that our Member States are in much better shape to boost job creation and create lasting prosperity for our citizens.



*The EU is taking measures to reform and strengthen its financial services sector.*

## A ROBUST EURO FOR A STRONG EUROPE

We have built a stronger economic architecture – with 18 members, the euro area has not only resisted the crisis but has become larger and more robust for the future.

The crisis exposed weaknesses in our economies and in our institutional architecture, so we acted to tackle them. Member States have made unprecedented but necessary efforts to get their economies in shape. We now have more effective systems of oversight and safety nets which include stronger budgetary rules, better-coordinated economic policies, and a Banking Union with a single supervisor and one single mechanism to restructure or close banks if needed.

The revamped Economic and Monetary Union is now in a good position to act and react early on, to correct imbalances and coordinate fiscal and economic policies.

The euro area has continued to expand: Estonia joined in 2011, Latvia in 2014 and Lithuania aims to join in 2015.



*More than 333 million EU citizens now use the euro.*

## CONTRIBUTING TO THE GLOBAL CRISIS RESPONSE

We have worked together with our international partners to respond to the challenges facing the global economy.

This has been a global crisis, requiring decisive action both within the EU and globally. The European Commission is participating in all major international fora – such as the G7, G8 and G20 – and our leadership on driving forward financial and economic reforms, increasing transparency and boosting trade confirms how important the EU is to the well-being of the global economy. The euro has remained the second reserve currency, after the dollar, and has maintained a remarkably stable exchange rate throughout the crisis.



*The EU is driving economic reforms on the world stage through its participation in all major international fora like the G20.*

# JANEZ POTOČNIK

Commissioner for Environment

Setting the course  
towards a greener  
Europe



## MORE RECYCLING AND LESS WASTE EQUAL MORE JOBS AND LESS IMPORT DEPENDENCY

Fewer resources are buried in landfill every year.

Waste generated by manufacturing and packaging, as well as municipal waste, has declined recently against all predictions. The EU is progressively becoming a recycling society, with increases in recycling rates for municipal waste, packaging waste and vehicles thanks to legislation initiated by the European Commission. Collection rates for waste from electric and electronic equipment are also improving.

Waste management and recycling create jobs. Full implementation of existing EU waste rules will lead to about 400 000 additional jobs in the EU. In addition, the annual turnover of the waste sector will increase by € 42 billion, and up to 30% of the EU 2020 greenhouse gas emission reduction target will be reached with these laws alone.

By wasting less and recycling more, the EU gets extra value from valuable materials, driving up European industries' resource efficiency, reducing dependency on imported raw materials, and boosting competitiveness.



*Europe is progressively becoming a recycling society, with fewer resources buried in landfill every year.*

## PROTECTING EUROPE'S NATURE

We have done more to protect and enhance Europe's unique nature.

Protecting our nature means protecting our quality of life. The EU's Biodiversity Strategy will help safeguard our nature and make sure it is managed and used sustainably, and — where possible — restored and enhanced. Through the Natura 2000 network, we have already classified over 27 000 sites containing Europe's most valuable natural treasures.

This is not just for nature's sake. We do this because all of us want clean water, fresh air, fertile soils, diverse species and habitats. The management of Europe's nature in general has also generated 4.4 million jobs and an annual turnover of €405 billion.



*Commissioner Potočník promoting ecotourism and sustainable development with multiple Olympic gold medallist Ivan Patzich in the Danube Delta, Romania.*

## SUCCESSFUL ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS HAVE REDUCED POLLUTANTS IN AIR AND WATER

We are tackling air and water pollution to protect your health.

The European Commission actively enforces these laws, and handles hundreds of complaints by citizens and NGOs to ensure the correct implementation of EU environmental legislation. As a result of enforcement actions:

- the number of zones where limits on health-damaging particles were exceeded on a daily basis dropped by about a quarter (from 36% in 2008 to 28% in 2012);
- over 1800 urban centres of various sizes, ranging from national capitals to small towns, now have an urban waste water treatment facility in conformity with EU rules;
- in 2012, 95.3% of all coastal waters in the EU reached the minimum quality standards, and 81.2% of bathing waters were classified as excellent.



*Commissioner Potočník holds a gold bar made out of recycled mobile phone components during a visit to a recycling plant in Belgium.*

# ANDRIS PIEBALGS

Commissioner for Development

Fighting poverty  
worldwide



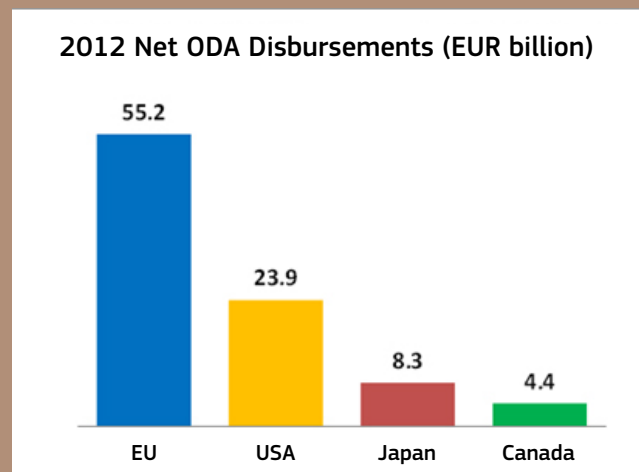
## AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

Despite the economic slowdown, the EU has remained the world's largest donor of development assistance, accounting for more than half of the support provided worldwide to fight global poverty.

As the main contributor to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, the European Commission has been helping to reduce global poverty and save millions of lives. For instance, in 2012 the EU and its Member States spent €55 billion on official development assistance. Thanks to EU development aid, in the last decade:

- almost 14 million more boys and girls benefited from primary education;
- over 70 million people gained access to drinking water;
- 46.5 million people were given cash or in-kind benefits to ensure their food security;
- 7.5 million births were attended by skilled health workers, saving the lives of mothers and babies.

This is something we are rightly proud of: over 80% of EU citizens believe that the EU should continue to help developing countries.



*The EU and its member states remain the world's largest donors of official development assistance.*

## REFORMING EU AID TO INCREASE ITS IMPACT

We have focussed aid on the countries that need it most and on the sectors where it can make the biggest difference.

This is the core of the 'Agenda for Change', the European Commission's policy blueprint for a modernised aid policy in a rapidly changing world with emerging economies.

70 % of EU aid will now go to the poorest countries, including those affected by conflicts or natural disasters, such as Mali, Somalia, the Central African Republic or Haiti, where the EU is leading the way to support peace and development.

We now target our assistance on areas that are drivers for change and economic growth, such as governance, agriculture, energy, health and education. We do this in full partnership with the countries we help. As a sign painted outside a school in Zimbabwe says: 'What you do for us without us is not for us'.

New audit and verification procedures have been implemented to track every euro spent, so that we can check actual results against expected results.



*Commissioner Piebalgs lays a new road with President Martelly of Haiti in 2012, two years after the Caribbean island's devastating earthquake.*

## MOBILISING OTHER EU POLICIES TO SUPPORT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' EFFORTS TO ERADICATE POVERTY

Over the last few years, we have taken huge strides in incorporating the needs of developing countries into all of our initiatives.

Whilst aid is crucial to eliminating poverty, in today's world it can never succeed if other policies do not contribute to the good that is done, or if they undo it. Specific examples of the European Commission's achievements in this field include:

- fighting tax evasion. A ground-breaking EU law on accountability and transparency helps to fight tax evasion and corruption, and guarantees that citizens are able to benefit from their own natural resources;
- protecting our planet's forests. A new EU law prohibits imports of illegally-harvested timber;
- preserving fisheries. The reform of the Common Fisheries Policy makes sure that

fisheries agreements deliver clear benefits for the local population.



*Certifying legally-harvested timber with the help of EU laws helps to protect the planet's forests.*

# MICHEL BARNIER

Commissioner for Internal Market and Services

Putting citizens at  
the heart of the  
single market



## HAVING A SOLID FINANCIAL SYSTEM AS A BASIS FOR GROWTH FOR ALL

We have introduced a set of rules to ensure that banks are more prudent and more robust to deal with any future economic shocks.

Taxpayers paid a huge bill to keep banks afloat. Never again should citizens have to pay for the bad practices and excessive risks taken by banks. The new rules proposed by the European Commission have enabled the EU to show leadership in the G20 on developing a global approach to this. They ensure that:

- banks set aside money for rainy days;
- they contribute to a common pot that will serve as a buffer in case of financial difficulty;
- citizens' money (up to €100 000 per bank account) is protected in case a bank fails;
- an overarching system is put in place to supervise bank activity and ensure that rules are respected.

New rules are also now in place to reduce the amount of risk taken in certain areas, such as on hedge funds and bankers' bonuses. For banks in the euro area, where knock-on effects from one country to another are even stronger, we have created a Banking Union with 1 single supervisor and 1 single system to restructure or shut down banks where necessary.



*New rules ensure that banks take fewer risks and are better prepared to deal with any future economic upheaval.*



## TAKING OUR SINGLE MARKET FORWARD

We have continued to open up the Single Market further in all areas of activity: from transport to the digital economy, from telecoms to energy.

Having a single market is better for all of us collectively – it offers consumers more choice, better quality and better value for money and it gives companies access to a market of 500 million people to sell their products and services to. It is win-win for consumers and businesses. This is why we have taken numerous steps to deepen the Single Market. We are putting in place a framework to encourage the one-in-four new businesses that are social businesses. We have put in place measures to help citizens take advantage of more opportunities which include:

- a professional card to make skills more easily recognised across the EU;
- EURES - a portal that advertises job vacancies across the EU;
- the right to open a basic bank account wherever you are in the EU;
- measures to fight unfair trading practices, piracy and counterfeiting which damage businesses.



*Expanding the single market brings new benefits to consumers and businesses alike.*

## THE EUROPEAN PATENT

Finally, after more than 30 years of debate, a European-wide patent will soon become a reality. European businesses, including small and medium-sized businesses, will be able to get an EU-wide patent for their creative ideas at a competitive price more easily and faster.

A patent gives the owner of an invention the right to prevent others from making, using or selling the invention without permission. The agreement, for which the European Commission has fought hard, is good for our economy, businesses and consumers. It will encourage our researchers and businesses to invest in innovation, which underpins growth. And with the new patent, we can compete with our international partners.



*An EU-wide patent will encourage European researchers and businesses to invest in innovation, which underpins growth.*

# ANDROULLA VASSILIOU

Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth

Education,  
training and  
creativity for success



## INVESTING IN SKILLS FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

We have increased investment in education and training, even as Member States consolidate their public finances.

Money should never be an obstacle to educating or training our young people. This is why the European Commission has continued investing in education and training, while many Member States have tightened their purse strings. By setting targets, we have helped get more young people to pursue further studies and lowered the number of pupils leaving school early with few or no qualifications.

Erasmus+ was launched in 2014 with a budget of € 15 billion for the next 7 years, a 40 % increase on previous spending and the biggest increase of any EU programme. 4 million people will have the chance to study, train or volunteer abroad, learn another language and gain new skills, which will boost their employability.

A new 'loan guarantee' will help students study for a full master's degree regardless of their financial background; informal and non-formal learning have been given more prominence and recognition; and closer ties between education and the labour market have been developed through partnerships between universities, vocational institutions and enterprises.



*The Commission has continued investing in education and training, while many Member States have reduced their budgets.*

## TRAINING THE ENTREPRENEURS OF TOMORROW

We have increased our financial support to bring research and entrepreneurship closer together.

We need to change the way we think about innovation in Europe, which is why the European Commission has increased its investment in the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA).

The EIT has helped launch more than 100 start-ups and has already trained 1 000 students pursuing new postgraduate courses combining academic study with entrepreneurial training. Since 2010, the EIT's Knowledge and Innovation Communities have been a concrete way in which top-class universities and research centres can work more closely with businesses and industry to develop solutions to today's societal challenges.

A 30% increase in the budget for the MSCA will provide €6 billion in funding over the next seven years for more than 65 000 researchers, almost 40% of whom will be PhD candidates.



*New postgraduate courses combining academic study with entrepreneurial training have led to a rise in new start-ups.*

## PUTTING OUR ARTISTS AND CREATORS ON THE WORLD STAGE

We have boosted support for European artists and creators.

The cultural and creative sectors account for up to 4.5% of Europe's GDP, employing more than 8 million people. The European Commission believes they can expand even more thanks to backing from the new Creative Europe programme, which has an increased budget of almost €1.5 billion. This will provide grants for 250 000 European artists and support for 2 000 cinemas, 800 films and 4 500 book translations.

We are also setting up a scheme to make it easier for small cultural businesses to obtain bank loans and to help financial institutions assess the sector's potential.

Cultural exchanges have become an essential part of the EU's relationship with its neighbours and the rest of the world. The High-Level People-to-People Dialogue with China is a fantastic example of how the EU has expanded

cooperation between Chinese students, artists and cultural professionals and their European counterparts.



*Our commitment to supporting the cultural and creative sectors reaps its own rewards.*

# ALGIRDAS ŠEMETA

Commissioner for Taxation, Customs, Statistics,  
Audit and Anti-Fraud

Effectively  
protecting the  
EU taxpayer



## GREATER FAIRNESS IN TAXATION FOR CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES

We have strengthened rules against tax evasion and tax fraud in the EU and worldwide.

The European Commission has fought for greater tax transparency and fairer tax competition in the EU and internationally. We have worked to end bank secrecy and tax havens, and to clamp down on corporate tax dodging. Through an ambitious action plan to close loopholes and tighten tax rules, the European Commission put in place a new framework to recover billions of euros lost to the public purse every year due to tax evasion.

Fair taxation means that everyone pays their share. The ‘Robin Hood’ tax – or Financial Transaction Tax – proposed by the European Commission can ensure that the financial sector does just that. This tax, which is strongly supported by European citizens, is now being taken forward by many Member States. We have also set the wheels in motion to tax effectively the digital economy without stifling it.



*The EU has led the way in fighting tax evasion, and has encouraged a global leap towards tax transparency.*

<http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?sitelang=en&ref=1080915>

## A MORE BUSINESS-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

We have decisively cut red tape and administrative costs for businesses by improving and simplifying taxation and customs systems in Europe.

Commission proposals for a standard VAT declaration for cross-border companies will save €15 billion a year. Businesses operating in the EU can save €18 billion with the new VAT rules on e-invoicing. VAT rules have been made more flexible for very small companies, to reflect their specific needs. Meanwhile, the Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base proposal is strongly supported by businesses as a tool to reduce their costs and simplify procedures.

By modernising EU customs – including the shift to a pan-European electronic customs environment – we have supported quicker, smoother and more secure trade. By reinforcing the ability of customs to clamp down on fake goods and smuggling, we have contributed to better protection of legitimate businesses and to creating a more level playing field.



*Commissioner Šemeta visits the Vaalimaa Customs House on the Finnish-Russian border.*

## BETTER PROTECTION OF TAXPAYERS' MONEY

We have reinforced the tools used to safeguard taxpayers' money and protected the EU budget against abuse.

The Commission has strengthened the tools used to tackle fraudsters and protect the EU budget. The European Public Prosecutor's Office is one of the European Commission's proudest initiatives. Once it is established, it will ensure that those who defraud EU funds are properly investigated, prosecuted and brought to justice. It will handle an estimated 2 500 cases every year.

In addition, we have proposed greater deterrents for crimes against the EU's financial interests, including harmonised sanctions throughout the EU. The EU anti-fraud office, OLAF, has been reorganised so that it can maximise its potential. A new 'anti-fraud cycle' has also been introduced into the day-to-day work of everyone who manages EU funds.



*The EU anti-fraud office, OLAF, investigates EU budget fraud, corruption in the European institutions, and develops anti-fraud policy for the European Commission.*

# KAREL DE GUCHT

Commissioner for Trade

Generating  
prosperity,  
improving stability  
and strengthening  
development



## OPENING UP NEW MARKETS

We have opened up more foreign markets than ever before, boosting trade and creating growth, both in the EU and for our trade partners.

The European Commission helped remove trade barriers with South Korea, Peru, Colombia and Central America. Trade agreements with Europe's Eastern Partners such as Ukraine were finalised, as well as with Canada, West Africa and the Caribbean.

We also launched 3 hugely important free-trade negotiations: with the US, with Japan, and the investment agreement with China. If all these initiatives bear fruit, we could add 2.2% to the EU's GDP, equivalent to €275 billion.

We have also succeeded in pushing for more agreements favourable to EU business, including measures allowing European companies to have more access to government procurement contracts outside the EU and we have defended our interests against third countries attempting to distort the market.



*Commissioner De Gucht, President Barroso and U.S. President Obama participating in the 2011 EU/US Summit.*

## MAKING TRADE FAIRER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE

We are making trade work for the benefit of the poorer economies.

Trade can lift developing economies out of poverty. Since 2010, the European Commission has revised its tariff preferences (Generalised System of Preferences, or GSP) to make sure that developing countries in need actually benefit from tariff preferences towards the EU market.

When the tragedy in a Bangladeshi textile factory revealed harsh realities about working conditions outside the EU, the European Commission launched an unprecedented joint initiative with the International Labour Organisation to help Bangladesh improve conditions for workers.

We have also contributed to sustainable conflict-free trade in key manufacturing products by developing a scheme for responsible sourcing of minerals.

The EU also helped secure the Bali agreement on trade facilitation in December 2013, saving developing countries around €325 billion a year by removing many administrative costs related to customs operations.



*Commissioner De Gucht with Dipu Moni, Bangladeshi Minister for Foreign Affairs in Geneva.*

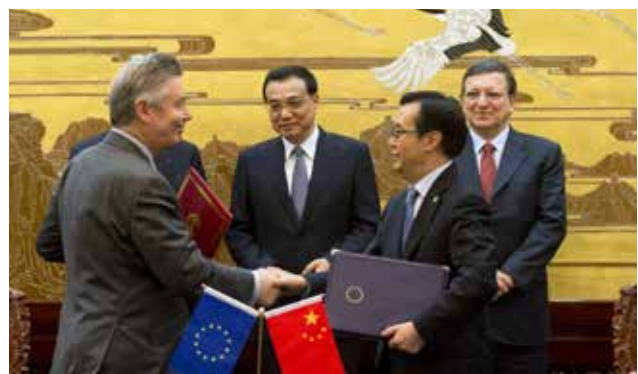
## STANDING UP FOR EUROPEAN TRADE INTERESTS

We have consistently defended EU businesses when trade rules were not respected elsewhere.

When Europe's solar panel industry was threatened by dumping and unfair subsidies for Chinese solar panels on the EU market, the European Commission negotiated a solution, imposing a minimum export price on Chinese companies to stabilise the market.

We have fought to improve access to raw materials such as rare earths used in many sectors from high-technology to car manufacturing and steel production, by winning two World Trade Organisation cases against China.

We have also launched an initiative to make EU trade defence instruments more predictable and transparent.



*Commissioner De Gucht and Gao Hucheng, Chinese Minister for Commerce, at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on intellectual property rights in Beijing.*

# MÁIRE GEORGHEGAN-QUINN

Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science

Turning research and innovation into jobs



## CHANGING PEOPLE'S DAILY LIVES THROUGH INNOVATION

We have secured a 30% budget increase for research, making Horizon 2020 the largest EU research programme yet.

Research and innovation can help us deal with the big challenges we are facing, such as climate change, energy needs and food scarcity. Due to the complexity of these challenges, specific solutions to tackle them go beyond the capacity of single countries and individual companies. This is why we created Horizon 2020, the new EU-wide research and innovation programme worth €80 billion over 7 years. Horizon 2020 is more focussed than ever on continuing the real progress made in areas like finding the next generation of anti-biotics or making our transport systems greener and safer.

We will also cooperate more internationally, for instance on marine research through an Atlantic Ocean research alliance.



*Renewable energy is a major focus of EU research.*

Twitter: [@EU\\_H2020](https://twitter.com/EU_H2020)



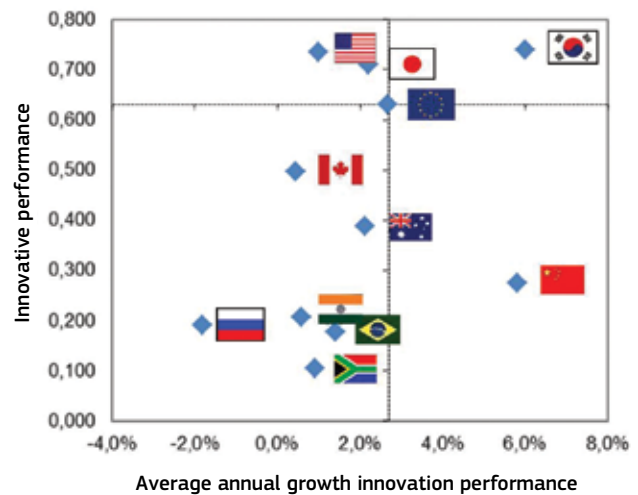
## PUSHING EUROPE TO THE FRONT OF THE GLOBAL INNOVATION RACE

We have agreed that the EU as a whole will increase its investment in research and innovation to 3% of GDP by 2020.

Knowledge is the new global currency. To compete globally and create new and better jobs, Europe has to lead on innovation. It is catching up with the US and Japan in the global innovation race, and staying ahead of many other countries. But China is catching up fast and South Korea is way out in front. Most worryingly, we are falling behind in actual spending on research, currently at just 2% of GDP. This is why sticking to the 3% target is so important.

We are also working on spending better, not just more. With the European Research Area we are putting the EU on track to reform its research and innovation systems and create a single market for ideas across the continent. This is joining up innovation efforts, making

research funding and recruitment more open and fair, strengthening gender equality and giving young researchers more opportunities.



*Europe is hot on the heels of the global leaders regarding growth in innovation performance.*

## PUTTING IDEAS TO WORK

We have made it easier to turn an idea into a product and introduce it on the market, especially for our small and medium-sized businesses.

It is all well and good having an idea, but the important thing is to get it off the ground, into the marketplace and into people's businesses and homes. So the European Commission has slashed red tape for our research funding, for instance reducing the time it takes to get a project started by 30%. We are funding more public-private partnerships in areas like aeronautics and electronics and we are combining this with a move to make the EU an 'Innovation Union'. This is why we have focussed our energy on getting agreement on an EU patent, and why we created the 'venture capital passport' to help companies to

take calculated risks, because 'without risks and failure there can be no progress'.



*An EU public-private partnership is working on "Factories of the Future".*

Twitter: [@innovationunion](https://twitter.com/innovationunion)

# JANUSZ LEWANDOWSKI

Commissioner for Financial Programming and Budget

A strong and sound  
budget makes a  
strong and sound  
EU



## € 1 TRILLION INVESTMENT IN THE NEXT 7 YEARS

We have secured a budget of € 1 trillion between 2014 and 2020 for the EU to invest in our economy and society and improve the lives of our citizens.

This is what 20 million European small and medium-sized businesses, some 100 000 towns and regions, thousands of laboratories and universities, and many other beneficiaries of the EU budget need.

A strong and sound budget will deliver a strong and sound EU. The new budget has been modernised to invest better in economic growth, research, education, humanitarian aid and helping the young unemployed.



*A new seven-year EU budget of one trillion euros will be invested in economic growth, research, education, helping the young unemployed, and humanitarian aid.*

## THE EU BUDGET AT THE SERVICE OF CRISIS RESPONSE

We have given the new multi-annual budget a clear focus on growth and jobs.

The EU budget will act as the anti-crisis tool to strengthen the real economy, thus acting as a lever and lifting Europe out of the crisis. At least 600 000 jobs have been created since 2007 with help from the rural development and cohesion funds. A further 174 000 jobs were added by calls for proposals in research and development by 2011. EU funds had also supported 80 000 start-ups and had directly helped some 200 000 small and medium-sized businesses by the end of 2012. The funds made student exchanges possible and helped Member States with external EU borders to manage migration flows.

We accomplished all this despite the fact that the EU budget is small compared to the budgets of the Member States. It represents just 1 % of the total wealth produced every year in Europe and amounts to less than € 1 per citizen per day.



*EU budget represents just 1 % of the total wealth produced every year in Europe and amounts to less than € 1 per citizen per day.*

## SIMPLE AND EASY-TO-USE FINANCIAL RULES

We have put in place simpler rules, more innovative mechanisms and less costly procedures.

The work to improve access to EU funds through more easily understandable and more accessible and simpler financial rules is a task we have taken seriously. The general financial rules applicable to every single euro spent under the EU budget have been substantially revised.

Simpler rules also mean greater accountability. The European Commission has decided that each EU beneficiary be paid within 90 days. All documents are now submitted electronically — meaning less paperwork, less risk of losing documents and improved oversight of funds.



*Simpler rules, more innovative systems and less costly procedures will help to improve access to EU funds for those who require them.*

# MARIA DAMANAKI

Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Safeguarding the future of our seas



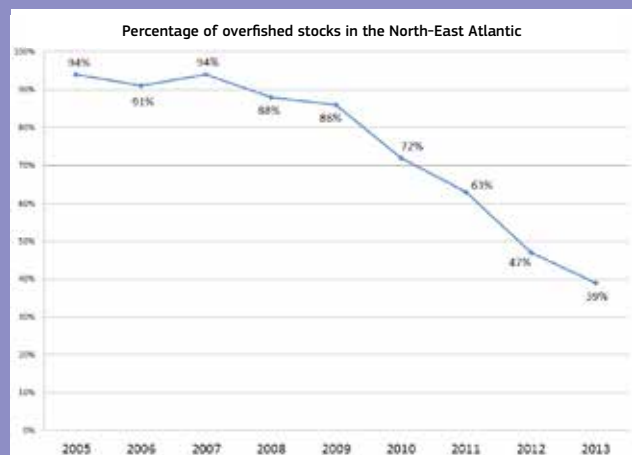
## MORE FISH IN THE SEA AND ON THE PLATE — MORE INCOME FOR FISHERMEN AND FISH FARMERS

We have helped to triple the number of healthy fish stocks in Europe in just the last 5 years.

The European Commission has acted against overfishing and discarding unwanted fish, which come at a cost to fish stocks and jobs.

In the North-East Atlantic, our work has helped to preserve important fish stocks from extinction: we have seen a dramatic fall in overfished stocks from 94 % (32 out of 34 stocks) in 2005 to 39% (16 out of 41 stocks) in 2012. In the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, a lot still needs to be done, but significant progress has been made: we brought the bluefin tuna stock back from the brink of extinction to sustainable levels.

We are proud that our new and radical fisheries policy will support a dynamic fishing industry and ensure a fair standard of living for fishing communities. We ensure that seafood can be fished, sold, bought and eaten without depleting the stocks, so that future generations can enjoy fish the same way we do today.



*Action against overfishing and discarding unwanted fish has contributed to a dramatic fall in overfished stocks.*

## OUR SEAS AS A SOURCE OF PROSPERITY

We have turned the sea, our ‘blue economy’, into a source of growth and prosperity.

In times of economic crisis and with soaring unemployment, we need to use the opportunities arising from European seas. With the European Commission’s ‘Blue Growth’ agenda, we have struck a fair balance between protecting the marine environment and taking advantage of our seas — the blue economy. It should enable us to create 1.6 million new jobs by 2020 in areas such as:

- renewable energy, such as wind, tides and waves;
- tourism (related to cruises, yachting, diving, beaches);
- oil, gas and other mineral resources;
- biotechnology, such as medicines and cosmetics;
- fisheries and aquaculture.

To date, the European Commission has financed multiple projects all around Europe to support coastal communities in these sectors.



*The new fisheries policy supports a dynamic fishing industry and ensures a fair standard of living for fishing communities.*

## PROTECTING THE SEAS IN EUROPE AND AROUND THE GLOBE

We have zero tolerance for illegal and irresponsible fishing worldwide.

Illegal fishing accounts for at least 15% of the world’s total catch. The EU, the largest importer of fish in the world, no longer tolerates any fish caught illegally or unsustainably from anywhere in the world. We are taking action against countries that allow illegal fishing and we cooperate with countries such as the United States and Japan to guarantee that everything is done correctly – from net to plate.

It is crucial to have open and safe seas, international cooperation and to respect maritime law. The EU has taken on the task of providing maritime security in sensitive regions in the world – notably the fight against piracy in the Horn of Africa. Our role also extends to other areas, such as ocean research and marine innovation technologies.



*The EU has taken on the task of providing maritime security in sensitive regions around the world.*

# KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA

Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response

Humanitarian aid,  
the European way:  
fast, coordinated and  
effective



## THE EU IS THE WORLD'S BIGGEST DONOR OF HUMANITARIAN AID

With an annual investment of just €2 per European citizen, we help more than 120 million victims of conflicts and disasters worldwide every year, from the conflict in Syria to the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010 and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013.

In Syria and its neighbours, we are helping to address the biggest humanitarian disaster in a generation with funding of €2.7 billion (of which €615 million comes from the European Commission). But the EU does not just help in high-profile crises: 1 in 7 euros of EU relief funding is used for 'forgotten crises' that are not in the headlines. The situation in the Central African Republic, for example, was barely noticed until the violence reached intolerable levels, but the European Commission was present with substantial humanitarian funding and experts on the ground long before the wider international community took note. In regions like the Sahel, which are hit increasingly hard by drought linked to climate change, we are championing resilience – helping the most vulnerable communities to cope in case disaster strikes.

The European Commission created the EU Aid Volunteers scheme, giving young Europeans the opportunity to participate in relief work worldwide.



*The EU's annual investment of just €2 per citizen helps more than 120 million victims of conflicts and disasters worldwide every year.*

## PROVIDING A FASTER AND BETTER COORDINATED CRISIS RESPONSE IN EUROPE AND WORLDWIDE

In May 2013 we launched the European Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) to respond faster and more efficiently to catastrophes worldwide.

Through the ERCC, the European Commission monitors global events on a 24/7 basis, risks are geographically located and real-time information is provided for joint European response operations.

Through the ERCC, we coordinate a voluntary pool of equipment and experts from Member States, for more predictable and rapid deployment whenever needed.

Over the last 4 years, this system has been used more than 80 times for emergencies in Europe and across the globe – from forest fires in Southern Europe to floods in Central Europe, and disasters in Japan, Libya, Syria and the Philippines.



*The European Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) monitors global events and coordinates EU disaster response operations.*

## GIVING CHILDREN A PEACEFUL CHILDHOOD

When the EU received the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize, it decided to use the prize money to help children who grow up in conflict regions.

The EU Children of Peace initiative now funds humanitarian projects for children living in conflict regions, providing them with access to schools and psychological support to heal their war traumas.

The EU more than doubled the Nobel Prize money, to a total of €2 million. Last year we helped 28 000 children from Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Colombia and Ecuador, and also Syrian refugees in Iraq.

This year, the EU doubled its funding again. As a result, more than 80 000 young people will benefit in even more countries, including South Sudan, Chad, the Central African Republic, Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Myanmar.



*The EU Children of Peace initiative gives children in war zones the chance to have a childhood.*

# GÜNTHER OETTINGER

Commissioner for Energy

Sustainable energy  
for a sustainable  
future



## **BUILDING A SINGLE MARKET FOR ENERGY IN EUROPE SO THAT EVERY HOME AND BUSINESS CAN HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE PRICE**

We are replacing the disjointed patchwork of national energy systems with an EU-wide market.

For energy companies, this means open competition with fair and transparent rules, and access to neighbouring markets. As a result, today at least 14 European energy companies are active in more than one Member State. You can switch suppliers more easily now and take advantage of the best price. This means you are no longer charged for switching electricity or gas suppliers, and the network operator must make the change within 3 weeks.

Linking energy markets in the EU also reinforces solidarity in times of crisis. If there are disruptions to energy supply – as we saw in 2009 when Europe underwent one of the worst gas crises in its history – Member States can share reserves.

It is important that we integrate all 28 Member States into the Single Market so that energy islands like the one in the Baltic States will soon become history.



*Providers and consumers alike benefit from the EU's single market for energy.*



## MAKING ENERGY SAFER

We are ensuring that the highest safety standards are applied in the field of energy generation.

After the disasters in Mexico and Fukushima, the European Commission ensured that the 1 000 oil and gas installations operating in EU waters were covered by laws ensuring that the highest safety standards are applied, and for the first time all 145 nuclear reactors in the EU underwent stress tests.

In addition, the European Commission proposed improvements to its nuclear safety legislation to ensure that EU safety standards are properly applied in order to avoid accidents like the one in Fukushima, and to ensure that national authorities cooperate more actively with each other so we can continuously improve safety standards across the EU, guaranteeing the most efficient response should a nuclear emergency occur.



*All oil and gas installations operating in EU waters are covered by laws ensuring that the highest safety standards are applied.*

## SHAPING THE MOST SUSTAINABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE ENERGY POLICY EVER

We have taken steps to increase the share of electricity that comes from renewable sources.

Today, over 20 % of electricity in the EU comes from renewable sources, and the European Commission has taken steps to increase this share further by supporting new renewable energy options, like using our oceans to harvest energy from waves and tidal streams.

The EU has become more energy efficient than ever during the mandate of this European Commission thanks to EU laws aiming to reduce energy bills for households and companies. Appliances like fridges can be up to € 600 cheaper to run over their lifetime, and buildings – the biggest culprits in terms of energy waste – must now be built in line with strict energy-performance standards.

Today, three quarters of Europeans live in cities where 70 % of EU energy is consumed. This is why the European Commission has launched initiatives that will help cities become healthier and cleaner places to live.



*The Commission is committed to expanding Europe's renewable energy options and the amount of electricity derived from them.*

# JOHANNES HAHN

Commissioner for Regional Policy

Tailor-made  
solutions for  
European regions



## INVESTING IN EUROPE'S REGIONS TO CREATE LONG-TERM GROWTH

We have radically changed how regional investment is distributed, making it more responsive to the needs of our regions.

The new Regional Policy, together with the European Social Fund, provides financial support of € 350 billion for small- and medium-sized businesses, research and innovation, renewable energies, job creation, education and key network infrastructures. To ensure that money has maximum impact, investments must be made in line with a strategy for long-term growth; if reforms are needed, we won't invest until they are carried out.

Today, most Europeans live in cities so this is where more than half of funding is allocated. Every penny spent on transport, health or clean and efficient energies works towards meeting our targets and information is always publicly available so that you can see whether we are achieving our goals.

This is about making the most out of the money available and making sure that regional investment really contributes to the competitiveness of our regions and to improving citizens' living standards.



*The new Regional Policy provides support for projects such as the Peace Bridge in Derry, Northern Ireland.*

## INVESTING IN EUROPE'S REGIONS TO HELP THEM THROUGH TIMES OF ECONOMIC CRISIS

We have mobilised regional funding to help Europe's regions deal with the crisis.

Whilst national governments were applying the necessary spending cuts to balance their budgets and private financing was drying up during the financial crisis, funding from Regional Policy helped us weather the storm.

It has created nearly 600 000 jobs across Europe and, for many Member States it represents more than 60 % of the investment budget.

The EU's Regional Policy is also helping to keep the EU competitive, with more than € 85 billion allocated to research, development, innovation and services.

Up to the end of 2012, Regional Policy investment helped to make broadband available to more than 5 million extra people. It has also improved the quality of life for our citizens by giving 3.3 million people access to drinking water and connecting 5.5 million people to waste water treatment facilities.



*Regional Policy funds have provided 3.3 million European citizens with access to clean drinking water.*

## RESPONDING TO NEW AND UNFORESEEN CHALLENGES

We have found new ways of addressing cross-border issues and helping our citizens recover from natural disasters.

EU Regional Policy is the bedrock of cross-border cooperation. The European Commission has found new ways to help Member States cooperate and pool their resources to tackle shared challenges in areas like the Danube basin, the Baltic, the Adriatic-Ionian seas and the Alps.

In addition, the European Commission is currently funding 8500 projects supporting cross-border communities.

Protecting citizens also means providing aid in times of crisis. The earthquake in Abruzzo, for example, destroyed the region's infrastructure, households, public buildings, and businesses. This was achieved with the European Solidarity Fund which helps rebuild damage caused after the disaster itself is over.

We have rolled out almost €2 billion to help millions of people in 14 Member States, in addition to more than €7.3 billion spent on disaster prevention.



*The European Solidarity Fund was used to support disaster relief efforts after the earthquake in Emilia Romagna, Italy.*

# CONNIE HEDEGAARD

Commissioner for Climate Action

Leading the fight  
against climate  
change



## MAKING CLIMATE ACTION PART OF EVERY EU POLICY PROGRAMME

We have ensured that 20% of the EU budget will be devoted to climate-related policies and that fighting climate change will be integrated into all major EU spending programmes.

The European Commission has successfully proposed that 20% of the €960 billion EU budget for 2014-2020 be devoted to climate-related policies. Compared to the previous budget, this is a threefold increase. Climate adaptation action and efforts to reduce emissions are being integrated into all the major EU spending programmes, in particular regional policy, energy, transport, research and innovation, and the Common Agricultural Policy. Climate action is one of the European Commission's main priority areas and the political commitment is backed up with serious money.

Currently, 4.2 million Europeans are employed in green sectors, with more than 300 000 jobs created in the last 5 years in the renewable industry alone.



*The Commission's Climate Action policies have created more than 300 000 jobs in the renewable energy industry over the last five years.*

## LONG-TERM CERTAINTY FOR COMPANIES INVESTING IN CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICIES

We have given companies the long-term certainty they require to be able to invest in climate and energy policies.

The European Commission has proposed specific targets for greenhouse gas emissions and the share of energy coming from renewables, to be achieved by 2030. These goals will improve predictability for companies that create jobs and for the energy sector, to ensure a stable energy supply for the EU at the lowest possible cost.

The European Commission has also set out a plan that will enable the EU to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% by 2050. For the first time ever, we have a vision of how the EU can cost-effectively achieve the transformation to a clean, competitive and environmentally-friendly society.



*By setting long-term goals, the Commission has given businesses the certainty they need to invest in climate and energy policies.*

## SHOWING LEADERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

We have led by example in international climate negotiations.

The European Commission brought together all of the Member States and the EU institutions around a united position and strategy for the Durban negotiations, and is doing the same ahead of the new agreement to be adopted in Paris in 2015.

We led the process with legislative proposals that have helped to reduce the EU's emissions by 18% since 1990, even though GDP has risen by 45% in the same timeframe. Legislation includes clear targets to cut emissions by 20% by 2020 and initial proposals to cut them by 40 % by 2030.



*The EU continues to lead the way in international climate negotiations.*

# ŠTEFAN FÜLE

Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy

European stability  
begins at its borders



## **GROWING TOGETHER – CROATIA JOINED THE EU ON 1 JULY 2013**

We have welcomed Croatia as a Member State of the EU. Torn by conflict only two decades ago, it is now a stable democracy, capable of meeting the obligations of EU membership and of adhering to EU standards.

Croatia's accession is evidence of the transformative power and credibility of EU enlargement policy, which has benefited not only Croatia but the entire EU. It sends a powerful signal to the whole of the Western Balkans that the prospect of European integration remains open to all aspirant countries which show the necessary will to implement political and economic reforms and prove their respect for European values, such as the rule of law, democratic principles and human rights.



*Croatia's accession is evidence of the transformative power and credibility of EU enlargement policy.*

## FURTHER EXTENDING THE ZONE OF PEACE, PROSPERITY AND STABILITY IN THE EU

We have started EU accession negotiations with Montenegro, and an historic agreement normalising relations between Serbia and Kosovo\* paved the way for opening EU accession negotiations with Serbia as well as negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Kosovo\*.

Putting fundamentals first and being fair but firm has increased the credibility of the enlargement process, which focuses on values, principles and thorough reforms. This ensures that countries are fully prepared before joining the EU.

Progress during a country's accession process is assessed on the basis of a proven track record, i.e. what counts are the concrete results and impact of the reforms on the ground. The rule of law is tackled early in the accession process and reforms are consistently followed up. Strong

emphasis is put on economic governance, competitiveness and growth to help the countries meet the economic criteria and facilitate economic convergence. Technical and financial pre-accession assistance is targeted to support these two priorities.

## TRANSFORMING OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

We introduced a new policy based on the 'more for more' principle to better help partners in their transition to democracy and respect for human rights.

The European Commission has introduced an incentive-based approach of cooperation through the principle of 'more for more', meaning more reforms and progress leading to more support and closer ties.

Through its European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), the EU works with its southern and eastern neighbours to achieve the closest possible political association and the greatest possible degree of economic integration. We are building on common interests and values such as democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights, social cohesion, market economy principles and sustainable development.

The EU helps its neighbours with:

- financial support. Grants worth € 12 billion were given to ENP-related projects from 2007 to 2013;

- economic integration and access to EU markets. In 2011 trade between the EU and its ENP partners totalled €230 billion;
- easier travel to the EU. 3.2 million Schengen visas were issued to citizens in 2012 and in particular to students from ENP countries;
- technical and policy support.



*The European Neighbourhood Policy helps Europe's partners in their transition to democracy and respect for human rights.*

*\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.*

# LÁSZLÓ ANDOR

Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Helping people find  
work —  
an inclusive job  
market for all



## TACKLING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

We have prioritised helping young people find work.

Youth unemployment – a result of the economic crisis – has put the future of an entire generation at risk. The European Commission introduced the Youth Guarantee EU-wide, which requires Member States to ensure that everybody under the age of 25 receives personalised advice and an offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within 4 months of leaving formal education or becoming unemployed.

To help implement the Youth Guarantee, Member States can use EU money from the European Social Fund (more than €10 billion per year) and the Youth Employment Initiative (€6 billion 2014-20).

To complement the Youth Guarantee, the European Commission has launched the EU Alliance for Apprenticeships to help increase the availability and quality of apprenticeships, and the Quality Framework for Traineeships to ensure that traineeships offer higher quality work experience.



*Commissioner Andor visiting an apprenticeship scheme at General Electric Aircraft Engines in Nantgarw (Wales).*



## TARGETING POVERTY

We have made tackling poverty an explicit EU commitment.

One of the most visible impacts of the economic crisis is the high increase in European citizens in or at risk of poverty. As part of the Europe 2020 strategy for smarter, more sustainable and more inclusive growth, the European Commission has made tackling poverty an explicit EU commitment, agreeing with Member States that at least 20 million people should be lifted out of poverty by 2020. Member States must use at least 20% of their resources- from the European Social Fund for social inclusion, focusing on improving skills and helping disadvantaged people get jobs. This represents €20 billion of funding across the EU.

The European Commission also provided guidance to help Member States improve the performance of their social policies. A new Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived worth €3.8 billion was set up to provide material assistance and promote social inclusion.



*Commissioner Andor visiting the Bódvalenke fresco village which implements projects to improve Roma integration through the promotion of social economy.*

## HELPING MOBILE WORKERS

We have made it easier for workers to move around the EU.

The conditions for workers moving to another Member State have been of growing concern.

The Commission obtained agreements to:

- enforce rules against social dumping where workers are temporarily posted to another EU country;
- ensure that the rights of workers moving within the EU are better respected and enforced;
- protect mobile workers better from discrimination on grounds of nationality, in particular regarding access to jobs, pay or working conditions;
- protect mobile workers' occupational pension rights.

For people looking for a job in another EU country, the European Commission has improved

the EURES portal by increasing the number of jobs advertised and providing information about working across the EU. EURES lists nearly 2 million vacancies and over 30000 employers as well as information on pay, social security and working conditions in EU Member States.



*Commissioner Andor gives a speech at a Labour mobility conference organised by the University of Bristol.*

# CECILIA MALMSTRÖM

Commissioner for Home Affairs

An open and  
secure Europe



## BUILDING A COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

We have built a common EU asylum system that treats asylum seekers humanely.

The European Commission has successfully negotiated new rules on how asylum seekers are received and treated when they arrive in any EU Member State. At the heart of the new system are new EU-wide rules on protection and reception standards. Asylum seekers will be guaranteed the same opportunities for international protection throughout the EU, including a dignified standard of living in the form of accommodation, clothing, food and allowances.

Almost 435 000 people sought asylum in the EU in 2013. Syria was the main country of origin, with 12% of the applications. Most applications were focussed on 5 Member States (Germany, France, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Italy) who received 70% of the total number of applicants.



*Spanish coastguards intercept a traditional fishing boat laden with immigrants off the coast of Tenerife in the Canary Islands.*

## FIGHTING ORGANISED CRIME

We have shed light on criminal activities, producing the first EU anti-corruption report, and we have damaged organised crime groups by going after their profits.

The European Commission has produced its first EU anti-corruption report which looks at corruption in all EU Member States and what should be done better to counter it. The report makes country-specific suggestions, including suggestions to strengthen transparency in funding for political parties, to ensure that assets are disclosed where necessary to prevent conflicts of interest, and to enhance the capacity of law enforcement bodies.

Corruption in the EU costs the taxpayer around €120 billion per year – an amount comparable to the entire annual EU budget.

In the fight against organised crime, the European Commission has proposed and negotiated new legislation on confiscating criminal wealth, to make it easier to freeze criminals' assets quickly if prosecutors fear that they would otherwise disappear.



*The fight against corruption is reducing the billions of euros illegal actions cost the EU every year.*

## FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN

We have cracked down on people traffickers and those sexually abusing children.

Close to 24 000 victims of human trafficking were identified between 2008 and 2010 in Europe. The European Commission has successfully introduced tougher penalties for traffickers and made protection and assistance to victims mandatory in all EU Member States. To get to the root of the problem, an EU-wide action plan against trafficking has been launched.

New laws to tackle sexual exploitation of children have also been proposed and negotiated, covering the prosecution of offenders, protection of victims and prevention measures. EUROPOL has set up a European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), which cracks down on online sexual abuse and online scams. This has led to many arrests.

On the initiative of the European Commission and the United States, 52 countries have formed a global alliance against child sexual

abuse online, working together to identify better and assist victims and ensure that more perpetrators are brought to justice.



*The Commission has cracked down on people traffickers and those sexually abusing children.*

# DACIAN CIOLOȘ

Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development

## New perspectives for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)



## A MORE MODERN CAP: GOOD FOOD FOR CONSUMERS AND GOOD JOBS FOR FARMERS

We have stimulated economic growth in the agricultural sector and boosted exports, including in some of the economies worst hit by the crisis.

The economic crisis has put a real strain on our farming sector and the rural economy, with over 500 million European consumers depending on the stable supply of safe and healthy food. However, the CAP has been providing funding for the EU's 12 million farmers and is supporting more than 46 million jobs in the agri-food industry. Trade agreements have created additional export opportunities, with decisions on geographical indications and new promotion schemes helping to stimulate demand for products 'made in the EU'. New initiatives have included measures to encourage more young people to enter the farming sector, and to reduce administration to make it easier for schools to provide fruit and milk to children to improve their diets and fight obesity. Since 2010 the EU has become a net exporter of agri-food products, as shown by the evolution of our agricultural trade.



*Trade agreements have created additional export opportunities and have stimulated demand for 'made in the EU' products.*

## BETTER VALUE FOR MONEY – GOOD FOR TAXPAYERS

We have secured a more focussed, more efficient agriculture budget for the next 7 years. It is smaller in real terms, but more fairly distributed and focussed on jobs, growth and the environment, as reflected in the evolution of CAP spending over time.

Overall public spending on agriculture is well under 1% of GDP and lower than in many other policy areas. It remains a major part of the EU budget as funding is mostly provided at an EU rather than national or regional level.

The reform will further help European agriculture to be competitive and based on farmers' decisions rather than bureaucratic choices – as highlighted by the planned end of dairy and sugar quotas – while providing other tools to help farmers cope with volatility and market crises. We have done away with farm support based on historical production and tightened the eligibility criteria for active farmers, so that aid will be more focussed on farmers effectively using the land rather than on land owners. Member States have been given greater flexibility to target specific sensitivities within a common EU framework. Rural development programmes

will help respect the diversity of the EU's rural life and traditions and offer support for regional and local level investment. We have also helped small farmers to establish longer-term business perspectives.



*The new, fairer agriculture budget focuses on jobs, growth and the environment.*

## BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT – GOOD FOR SOCIETY

The reformed CAP does more than ever before to support sustainable agricultural practices.

With 77% of EU territory dedicated to farming and forestry, we need to look after our land for the future, not just today.

New 'greening' rules mean that 30% of the payments going directly to farmers will be linked to improving the environment, for example zones to improve biodiversity. 30% of rural development funds are also aimed at specific regional environmental priorities.

Measures that bring farmers and researchers closer together will make it possible for the traditional agricultural sector to meet our 21st century needs. They boost innovation and address the fundamental challenge of how to produce more while still respecting our natural resources and learning to adapt to climate change.



*Our goal is to help the traditional agricultural sector to meet our 21st century needs.*

# TONIO BORG

Commissioner for Health

Putting people's  
health first



## INCREASING AWARENESS AND REDUCING THE RISK OF CANCER

We have raised awareness to help reduce cancer cases and introduced tough legislation on tobacco to tackle the largest cause of avoidable death in the EU.

The European Commission has set up the European Partnership for Action Against Cancer. We are helping Member States to share their knowledge and expertise on the prevention and management of cancer, and to develop their own national cancer plans. As a result of awareness-raising and promotion of European guidelines, by 2020 around 500 million screening exams will have taken place for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer in the EU.

Prevention remains the top priority. The European Commission has introduced tough new legislation on the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and tobacco-related products. The new laws will improve awareness about what tobacco does to people's health, will make sure tobacco products are less enticing to young people, and will ultimately serve to reduce the number of premature deaths per year, currently at 700 000.



*Campaigns raising awareness of cancer risks are helping to tackle the largest cause of avoidable death in the EU.*

## MAKING MEDICINES SAFE

We have introduced new rules to make sure that medicines sold on the EU market are among the safest in the world.

The European Commission has introduced new rules on the safety of medicines to make sure that all medicines sold on the EU market are regularly monitored and the right action is taken if there are cases where patients have adverse reactions.

Patient involvement has also improved. There has been a 60% increase in the number of adverse reactions reported directly by patients in 2012, compared to the 2 previous years. This is a direct result of the improved reporting system created by the new rules.

The European Commission has also introduced a new symbol (an inverted black triangle) to identify clearly medicines that are the subject of additional monitoring after their release on the market.



*EU rules ensure that patients are treated with medicines that comply with strict standards on quality, safety and efficacy.*

## KEEPING FOOD SAFE

We have further strengthened the rules and checks in place to enable European citizens to enjoy the safest food in the world.

The European Commission makes sure that there is an integrated approach to food safety, from farm to fork and across all sectors of the food chain. This means that 100 000 people carry out official checks on more than 20 million food business operators in the EU – from EU borders and slaughterhouses to restaurants and supermarkets – to identify any risks to human health.

Food is checked thoroughly before it reaches the dinner table. National inspectors check for the presence of pesticides, chemical residues and any microbial contamination. They also verify that labelling is correct and that hygiene rules are respected.

We have also successfully put in place a system that traces products along the food chain, from their origin. This has been instrumental in efficiently handling food safety emergencies and food fraud.



*EU food safety policy ensures a high level of protection for human health and consumer interests.*

# NEVEN MIMICA

Commissioner for Consumer Policy

Putting  
consumers first



## HELPING CITIZENS SHOP WITH CONFIDENCE ANYWHERE IN EUROPE

We are resolving citizens' complaints related to purchasing across EU borders.

The Single Market across 28 countries offers huge opportunities and choice for consumers. Consumers must feel they can shop with confidence. 120 000 complaints by European consumers have been resolved since 2010, with the help of European Consumer Centres. An additional 290 000 consumers have received information about their rights. This EU-funded network gives you the confidence to shop across borders.



*The EU-funded network of European Consumer Centres gives citizens the confidence to shop across borders.*



## ENSURING THAT THE PRODUCTS WE BUY ARE SAFE

We stop more than 2 000 dangerous products – from toys to cars and clothes to electronic goods – from reaching European consumers every year.

Through the European Commission's Europe-wide alert system (RA-PEX), the EU has worked to secure a high level of protection for the health and safety of all European consumers, from the moment a product is manufactured to its use at home. EU product safety rules mean that only products that are safe can be placed on the EU market. This ensures that you can buy products knowing that your family is protected.



*EU product safety rules mean that only products that are safe can be placed on the EU market.*

## PROTECTING ANIMALS FROM CRUEL TESTING

We have banned animal testing in the cosmetics industry.

European citizens attach a great deal of importance to animal welfare. Thanks to European legislation, there is now a complete EU-wide ban on testing cosmetics on animals. This means that around 27 000 animals are saved from suffering each year and that cosmetic products tested on animals can no longer be sold on the EU market.



*Cosmetic products tested on animals can no longer be sold on the European market.*

# Getting in touch with the EU



## ONLINE

Information in all the official languages of the European Union is available on the Europa website:

[www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)



## IN PERSON

All over Europe there are hundreds of local EU information centres.

You can find the address of the centre nearest to you at: [www.europedirect.europa.eu](http://www.europedirect.europa.eu)



## ON THE PHONE OR BY MAIL

**Europe Direct** is a service which answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service by freephone: **00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11** (certain mobile telephone operators do not allow access to 00800 numbers or may charge for these calls), or by payphone from outside the EU: **+32 22999696**, or by e-mail via [www.europedirect.europa.eu](http://www.europedirect.europa.eu)



## READ ABOUT EUROPE

Publications about the EU are only a click away on the EU Bookshop website: [www.bookshop.europa.eu](http://www.bookshop.europa.eu)

You can also obtain information and booklets in English about the European Union from:

### EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATIONS

#### European Commission Representation in Ireland

European Union House  
18 Dawson Street  
Dublin 2  
IRELAND  
Tel. +353 16341111  
Internet: <http://www.ec.europa.eu/ireland>  
E-mail: [eu-ie-info-request@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eu-ie-info-request@ec.europa.eu)

#### European Commission Representation in the United Kingdom

Europe House  
32 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3EU  
UNITED KINGDOM  
Tel. +44 2079731992  
Internet: <http://www.ec.europa.eu/uk>

#### European Commission Office in Northern Ireland

74-76 Dublin Road  
Belfast BT2 7HP  
UNITED KINGDOM  
Tel. +44 2890240708  
Internet: <http://www.ec.europa.eu/uk>

#### European Commission Office in Scotland

9 Alva Street  
Edinburgh EH2 4PH  
UNITED KINGDOM  
Tel. +44 1312252058  
Internet: <http://www.ec.europa.eu/uk>

#### European Commission Office in Wales

2 Caspian Point, Caspian Way  
Cardiff CF10 4QQ  
UNITED KINGDOM  
Tel. +44 2920895020  
Internet: <http://www.ec.europa.eu/uk>

#### Delegation in the United States

2175 K Street, NW  
Washington DC 20037  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Tel. +1 2028629500  
Internet: <http://www.eurunion.org>

### EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INFORMATION OFFICES

#### Information Office in Ireland

43 Molesworth Street  
Dublin 2  
IRELAND  
Tel. +353 16057900  
Internet: <http://www.europarl.ie>  
E-mail: [epdublin@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:epdublin@europarl.europa.eu)

#### Information Office in the United Kingdom

Europe House  
32 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3EU  
UNITED KINGDOM  
Tel. +44 2072274300  
Internet: <http://www.europarl.org.uk>  
E-mail: [eplondon@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:eplondon@europarl.europa.eu)

#### Information Office in Scotland

The Tun, 4 Jackson's Entry  
Holyrood Road  
Edinburgh EH8 8PJ  
UNITED KINGDOM  
Tel. +44 1315577866  
Internet: <http://www.europarl.org.uk>  
E-mail: [epedinburgh@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:epedinburgh@europarl.europa.eu)

There are European Commission and Parliament representations and offices in all the countries of the European Union. The European Union also has delegations in other parts of the world.



