

Agenda of the European Commission ***13 – 19 October 2014***

**Background notes from the Spokespersons' service for journalists.
The European Commission reserves the right to make changes.**

Tuesday 14 October:

- "Smart Regulation in the EU – Building on a Strong Foundation" – conference and Final Report on Administrative Burden Reduction
- Commission to announce next steps in the fight against illegal fishing worldwide

Thursday 16 October:

The Commission adopts its monthly infringements package

Friday 17 October:

Eurostat publishes EU28 GDP figures according to the revised ESA 2010 methodology for the first time

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 November:

The EU at the G20 Summit in Brisbane, Australia – **media accreditation open**

Tuesday 14 October:

"Smart Regulation in the EU – Building on a Strong Foundation"– conference and Final Report on Administrative Burden Reduction

The news:

On 14 October 2014 the Commission invites stakeholders and experts to look at achievements and persisting challenges in the field of smart regulation, administrative burden reduction and better implementation of EU legislation across Europe. To this end a major conference will be organised with the participation of European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and the Chairman of the High Level Group on Administrative Burdens, Dr. Edmund Stoiber and other members of the High-Level Group. The Final Report of the High Level Group on Administrative Burdens will be presented during the event.

The background:

Smart regulation is important for economic growth and jobs in Europe. The Commission wants to facilitate the lives of citizens and businesses by focusing EU law on those issues that are best dealt with at European level, while making it lighter, simpler and less costly. Administrative burden reduction is an important pillar of the smart regulation agenda, alongside with simplification, impact assessments and evaluation.

The Commission's REFIT programme for Regulatory Fitness and Performance is the focal point of all smart regulation efforts.

The High-Level Group on Administrative burden will continue its work until 31 October 2014 (i.e. end of the mandate of the current Commission). Until now, two High Level Groups on Better Regulation and Administrative Burdens have supported the Commission in implementing its smart regulation agenda. On 14 June 2014 the Commission suggested that, in the future, this support and expertise could most usefully be combined in one single group, with a revised mandate to assess the impact of EU regulation on the ground in Member States.

The event:

- The conference will take place from 10.00 – 13.00h in the Charlemagne building, 170 Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat, Brussels.
- A press point of President Barroso and Dr Stoiber will conclude the conference. Time: 12.45h, venue: VIP corner in the Berlaymont building).
- Journalists are invited to register on the following website: <https://scic.ec.europa.eu/fmi/SMARTREG2014/start.php#>. Deadline for registration: 26 September 2014.
- EbS will be covering the event <http://ec.europa.eu/avservices>. A live stream will also be available on the conference website.

The sources:

- The programme, Final Report and participants' list will be published on the [conference website](#) when available.
- The [REFIT](#) programme.
- Website of the [High Level Group on Administrative Burdens](#) and [Questions and Answers](#).

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Tuesday 14 October:

Commission to announce next steps in the fight against illegal fishing worldwide

The news:

The European Commission will adopt a package of measures announcing the next steps in the fight against illegal fishing. As part of its efforts, the EU is taking action against third countries who allow illegal fishing or who are not doing enough to fight it.

The background:

Illegal fishing is of great concern: it depletes fish stocks, undermines the livelihood of fishing communities and put honest fishermen at an unfair disadvantage. And it's big business.

The EU is committed to eradicate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) across the world's oceans and ensure that only legally caught fisheries products end up on the plates of European consumers. This is all the more crucial as the EU imports 2/3 of the fish it consumes.

Since 2012, 'yellow cards' have been issued to 10 third countries (Fiji, Panama, Togo, Vanuatu, Sri Lanka, Korea, Ghana, Curacao, Philippines and Papua New Guinea), warning them that they risk being banned from exporting fisheries products to the EU unless they improve the framework to ensure their products are fished sustainably. Three countries – Guinea, Belize, Cambodia – got a 'red card' in March of this year and were banned from exporting fish into the EU.

The Commission is regularly reviewing the situation and the next update will be on 14 October.

The event:

- 12:00 Press statement by Maria Damanaki, European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, in the press room of the Berlaymont.
- Available on EbS
- A press release and Memo will be available on the day.

The sources:

- [Fisheries website](#)
- [Website of Commissioner Maria Damanaki](#)
- [Press Release: Commission warns third countries over insufficient action to fight illegal fishing](#), November 2012
- [Press Release: European Commission intensifies the fight against illegal fishing](#), November 2013

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Thursday 16 October:

The Commission adopts its monthly infringements package

The news:

On Thursday 16 October 2014, the European Commission will adopt its monthly infringements package. These decisions cover all Member States and most of EU policies and seek to enforce EU law across Europe in the interest of both citizens and businesses.

The background:

Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) gives the Commission the power to take legal action against a Member State that is not respecting its obligations under EU law.

There are three successive stages: Letter of formal notice, reasoned opinion and referral to the Court of Justice.

If, despite the ruling, a Member State still fails to act, the Commission may open a further infringement case under Article 260 of the TFEU. After only one written warning, Commission may refer a Member State back to the Court and it can propose that the Court imposes financial penalties based on the duration and severity on the infringement and the size of the Member State.

The event:

A comprehensive Memo on all referrals and reasoned opinions, specific IPs on each referral and a Memo on the procedure will be available on the day on Rapid: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

The sources:

- For more information on infringements:
http://ec.europa.eu/eu_law/infringements/infringements_en.htm
- On the general infringement procedure: [MEMO/12/12](#)

The contacts:

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On specific infringements, please contact the spokesperson in charge.

Friday 17 October:

Eurostat publishes EU28 GDP figures according to the revised ESA 2010 methodology for the first time

The news:

On 17 October, for the first time, Eurostat will publish GDP figures for the EU28, the euro area and the individual Member States based on the revised European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 2010).

The background:

The European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA) sets down the harmonised methodology that must be used in the production of national accounts data in the EU. This methodological rulebook ensures that statistics on Member States' economies are compiled in a consistent, comparable, reliable and up-to-date way.

From September 2014, Member States have been required to use an updated rulebook, known as ESA 2010, for calculating GDP and other important economic figures. ESA 2010 adapts the way in which macroeconomic statistics are compiled to reflect the realities of the modern economy (e.g. globalisation, digitisation, knowledge-based economy etc.). This adaptation of the system of accounts is not only European, but world-wide. The equivalent international system of accounts (2008 SNA) is in the process of being implemented all around the world and has already been implemented in USA, Australia and Canada (see [MEMO/14/21](#)).

On 17 October, Eurostat will publish the revised annual GDP data for the period 1995-2013. This will show the changes in the level of GDP between the data under the previous system (ESA 95) and the revised data under ESA 2010. It will also present the break down between the changes to the GDP data which come from the implementation of ESA 2010 and those which are due to other statistical adjustments.

The event:

- Silke Stapel-Weber, Eurostat Director of national accounts, prices and key indicators, will present the revised GDP data at an on-the-record technical briefing in the Commission's press room at 11am. A press release and Q&A will be available on the day.
- Available on EbS

The sources:

[Eurostat website](#)

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Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 November:

The EU at the G20 Summit in Brisbane, Australia – media accreditation open

The news:

The President of the European Commission and the President of the European Council will represent the EU at this year's G20 Summit, which will take place on 15 and 16 November in Brisbane, Australia. Leaders are expected, amongst others, to adopt the Brisbane Action Plan, putting in place concrete short and medium-term actions to develop comprehensive strategies to stimulate growth. These will include infrastructure investments, trade barrier reductions, employment and development measures. Furthermore, G20 leaders will discuss measures to make the global economy more resilient to deal with future shocks.

The Australian Presidency has now opened the procedure for media accreditation. Journalists can apply for official accreditation until 21 October 2014, 9:00 Brussels time, at https://www.g20.org/accreditation/media_registration. As the Australian government points out, it is important that media register for accreditation via the online accreditation portal as early as possible and then apply for their visa. Accreditation will only be confirmed once the applicant has an approved visa.

The background:

The Brisbane Summit is the 9th edition of the Group of 20 (G20) Summit of the world's major advanced and emerging economies. Its members are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. Together, they represent around 90% of global GDP, 80% of global trade and two-thirds of the world's population. This year, Australia welcomes Spain as a permanent invitee; Mauritania as the 2014 chair of the African Union; Myanmar as the 2014 Chair of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN); Senegal, representing the New Partnership for Africa's Development; New Zealand; and Singapore. The 10th edition of the G20 Summit will be hosted by Turkey in 2015.

The event:

- 15 and 16 November 2014: 9th edition of the G20 Summit in the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, Australia, with the participation of the Presidents of the European Commission and the European Council.
- Press events ahead of and during the G20 Summit are to be confirmed. Press material about the EU at the G20 will be made available in the week before and during the Summit
- Available on EbS

The sources:

- G20 2014 Media accreditation: https://www.g20.org/accreditation/media_registration
- G20 website of the Australian Presidency: <https://www.g20.org/>
- G20 section on President Barroso's website: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/g20/index_en.htm

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