

Agenda of the European Commission

5 – 11 May 2014

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

Monday 5 May:

The Commission publishes Spring European Economic Forecast

Thursday 8 May:

Commission to set out innovation plan for "Blue Economy"

Monday 5 May:

The Commission publishes Spring European Economic Forecast

The news:

On 5 May, the European Commission will publish its Spring European Economic Forecast. It will cover 2013, 2014 and 2015 and will include data on Gross Domestic Product (GDP), inflation, employment and public budget deficits and debt, amongst others. These forecasts focus on all 28 EU Member States, plus the candidate countries as well as some non-EU countries.

The background:

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Economic and Monetary Affairs produces short-term macroeconomic forecasts three times year: in the spring, autumn and in the winter. They serve as a basis for various economic surveillance procedures, such as in the context of the European Semester.

The event:

- Vice-President Kallas will present the forecast at a press conference at 11:00 in the Commission's press room. A press release will be published at the same time, with a link to the report.
- Available on EbS

The sources:

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/eu/forecasts/2014_winter_forecast_en.htm

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Thursday 8 May:

Commission to set out innovation plan for "Blue Economy"

The news:

With land and freshwater resources under pressure, and oceans covering more than two thirds of our planet, we will have to rely more and more on the oceans and seas to provide sources for food, medicine and energy. The Commission will therefore present an Action Plan for innovation in the 'Blue Economy' to help use ocean resources sustainably and drive growth and jobs in Europe. For example, the Action Plan proposes a series of actions to improve knowledge of the ocean, better skills to apply new technologies in the marine environment and better coordination of marine research.

The background:

The maritime sector already employs 5.4 million people across Europe, working in professions as diverse as shipbuilding, tourism or offshore wind energy. But it could employ 7 million by 2020.

Major EU Research funding exists to help stimulate innovation. Between 2007 and 2013, the European Commission contributed an average of €350 million a year towards marine and maritime research through its seventh Framework Programme. Blue growth is a "focus area" in the new Horizon 2020 programme, with a specific €145 million budget for 2014-2015 alone, and further opportunities across the programme.

The event:

- Commissioners Maria Damanaki and Máire Geoghegan-Quinn will present the Action Plan at a press conference in the Commission's press room (Berlaymont). A press release, Memo and the Action plan itself will be available on the day.
- Available on EbS

The sources:

- http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/marine_knowledge_2020/index_en.htm
- http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/blue_growth/index_en.htm
- http://ec.europa.eu/research/bioeconomy/pdf/ocean-of-tomorrow-2014_en.pdf

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