



Actualités

Commission Work Programme 2022. The European Commission adopted it designed to rebuild a post COVID-19 Europe, accelerate the twin green and digital transitions, and build a fairer and more resilient society. The political strategy of this Commission is to set Europe on a path to successfully achieving climate neutrality by 2050, shaping our digital future, strengthening our unique social market economy, building a Union of prosperity, and making Europe stronger in the world. This work programme sets out targeted action to complete delivery on the ambitions the Commission set at the start of the mandate and further steer the Union towards sustainable recovery. It also lists the key legislative proposals that should get priority in the legislative process. To minimise the burden linked to the successful achievement of EU policy objectives, the Commission Work Programme initiatives will follow the 'one-in, one-out' approach. The approach will ensure that when introducing new burdens, we will systematically and proactively seek to reduce burdens for citizens and businesses in the same policy area and present costs, where feasible and proportionate. The purpose is to make sure that EU legislation delivers concrete benefits while alleviating administrative burden on EU citizens and businesses, especially small- and medium-sized enterprises. [resource.html \(europa.eu\)](#)

EU and US agree to start discussions on a Global Arrangement on Sustainable Steel and Aluminium and suspend steel and aluminium trade disputes. Steel and aluminium manufacturing is one of the highest carbon emission sources globally. For steel and aluminium production and trade to be sustainable, they must address the carbon intensity of the industry, together with problems related to overcapacity. The Global Arrangement will seek to ensure the long-term viability of our industries, encourage low-carbon intensity steel and aluminium production and trade, and restore market-oriented conditions. The arrangement will be open to all like-minded partners to join. Furthermore, following the United States' announcement that they will remove Section 232 tariffs on EU steel and aluminium exports up to past trade volumes, the European Union will take the steps to suspend its rebalancing measures against the United States. The two sides have also agreed to pause their respective WTO disputes on this issue. [EU-US Trade Relations on steel and aluminium EU-US Joint Statement \(europa.eu\)](#)

Impact of trade chapters of the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements with six partners: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. The Commission published the Staff Working Document on the evaluation of the Euro-Med FTAs with six Southern-Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. The Commission Staff Working Document concludes that the Euro-Med FTAs have achieved their objectives and had positive effects on trade, GDP, welfare, consumers and workers in both the EU and the Southern Neighbourhood. However, there are areas for improvement, such as non-tariff measures, enhancing regulatory cooperation, reinforcing Euro-Med FTAs implementation or achieving the sustainability objectives in the FTAs. In line notably with the Communication on Trade Policy Review and the Joint Communication on Renewed Partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood, there is readiness to further modernise EU's trade and investment relations with interested partners in the Southern Neighbourhood, to better adapt them to today's challenges. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021SC0319&from=EN>

Launch of new intellectual property helpdesk service for European SMEs doing business in Africa. Africa IP SME Helpdesk is a service implemented by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). One of the biggest

concerns for European SMEs trading with or investing in international markets is how to protect and enforce their IP outside of the EU. To help companies tackle this challenge, the Africa IP SME helpdesk offers free-of-charge, first-line IP support to European SMEs already operating in or planning to do business in Africa. The service comprises a set of support actions including a jargon-free, tailor-made and confidential helpline to answer questions on IP and related issues, as well as web-based training sessions, information materials, and online resources. The Africa IP SME Helpdesk complements existing IP helpdesks for EU businesses in Europe, China, India, Latin America, and South-East Asia. [*Africa IP SME Helpdesk \(europa.eu\)*](#)

EU launches International Just Energy Transition Partnership with South Africa. The governments of South Africa, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the US and the EU have announced a new ambitious Just Energy Transition Partnership to support South Africa's road to decarbonisation. The Partnership will mobilise \$8.5 billion for the first phase through grants, loans and investments and funds from the private sector. The aim is to accelerate the decarbonisation of South Africa's economy, with a focus on transforming its electricity system. It is expected to prevent up to 1-1.5 gigatonnes of emissions over the next 20 years and support South Africa's transition from coal to a more resilient climate model. [*Just Energy Transition Partnership with South Africa \(europa.eu\)*](#)

Commission collects views on making liability rules fit for the digital age, Artificial Intelligence and circular economy. The Commission has launched a public consultation until 10 January on the rules on compensation for damage caused by defective products. A specific focus will be on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in products and services. The Commission invites interested parties to express their views on the revision of the [Product Liability Directive](#) and on whether other national liability rules still provide legal certainty and consumer protection in an age of smart and AI-based products and services. This is especially important since the safety of these products and services does not depend only on their design and production, but also on software updates, data flows and algorithms. [*Civil liability – adapting liability rules to the digital age and artificial intelligence \(europa.eu\)*](#)

An analysis of SMEs' needs in public procurement. The objective of this study is to improve the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in public procurement. It identifies support actions to reduce the barriers SMEs face and to communicate the opportunities offered to them by public procurement. Being a public sector supplier with long-term contract commitments may shield a company against recession. Moreover, as subcontractors of larger firms in public procurement, SMEs could increase their business opportunities while reducing cash flow volatility and other risks. The strong involvement of SMEs in public procurement also allows contracting authorities to considerably broaden their potential supplier base and benefit from more competition for public contracts. [*DocsRoom - European Commission \(europa.eu\)*](#)

The data.europa academy. The official portal for European data launched a packed curriculum with free courses designed for the open data community to learn what open data is and how to work with it. Whether you are a data provider, policymaker, or data enthusiast, the data.europa academy will help you become more knowledgeable about open data, and use it to your advantage. The curriculum is structured along four themes: 1. Policy: Learn about the implementation of open data policies, strategies, open data governance, data protection, and privacy regulations. 2. Impact: Understand the potential of open data re-use, how to measure it, and how to monitor its impact. 3. Technology: Dive into the technicalities behind open data portals, learn how they work, and how to create an open data ecosystem for real-time, geospatial, and citizen-generated data. 4. Quality: Discover how to facilitate data discoverability, create access to data by harvesting meta-data, and work with high-quality data and various standards. [*Calendar | data.europa.eu*](#)

Opportunités

New European Bauhaus info sessions on available funding. These online events will give the opportunity to prospective applicants to learn more about the EU funding possibilities available to support beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive projects and ideas making the New European Bauhaus a truly transformative process. The **half-day sessions** will be held virtually on: 29 November [*Info session 1: New European Bauhaus funding opportunities \(europa.eu\)*](#) And 1 December [*Info session 2: New European Bauhaus funding opportunities \(europa.eu\)*](#)

The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) opens its call to build a new sustainable innovation partnership to strengthen Europe's Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI). The Call for Proposals invites consortia of organisations and CCSI industry and sectoral leaders bringing together education, research and business to put forward their vision and strategy for EIT Culture & Creativity, the new Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) that will drive the competitiveness and sustainable development of Europe's CCSI. The deadline for submissions is 24 March 2022. [eit_2021_call_for_proposals.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

CEDR Research Call 2021 is open with the two research programmes: Climate Change Resilience, and Remote Condition Monitoring of Physical Road Assets. The CEDR Transnational Research Programme (TRP) operates through a series of annual transnational calls on topics that address the needs of European road authorities. The aim is to produce research results that can be implemented by CEDR members and contribute to a safe, sustainable and efficient road network across Europe. It is funded by CEDR members on a voluntary basis. Participation is open to any legal entity, though all consortia must be led by a legal entity from a European country. The deadline for submissions is 17 December 2021. [Ongoing tenders - Supplier Portal - Vejdirektoratet.dk](#)

Become an External Evaluator for the RDA Open Calls in the EOSC Future project. The Research Data Alliance (RDA) - in the context of EOSC Future - is seeking applications for experts to become **external evaluators** for a series of diverse grants to be funded over the duration of the EOSC Future project. Evaluators will be responsible for evaluating applications in response to RDA's Open Calls. EOSC Future aims to have a pool of international external evaluators to support its decision-making processes for the award of these grants. [Call for RDA External Evaluators / EOSC Future Funding Platform \(eoscfuture-grants.eu\)](#)

IoT-NGIN (Internet of Things) announces Open Call #1 which will select at least 5 new partners, who will join the IoT-NGIN consortium. IoT-NGIN invites IoT devices manufacturers, embedded software and FPGA/soft core SMEs to join the IoT-NGIN consortium. Each project will be granted up to €150K and will enter into an 18-month programme, during which they will develop their HW/SW components within IoT-NGIN and test them in IoT-NGIN pilots. [H2020 IoT-NGIN | F6S](#)

ECCP's (European Clusters Collaborative Platform) Annual Survey. This annual survey aims to collect ECCP stakeholders' feedback on the ECCP activities conducted and resources made available in 2021, including the ECCP website, EREK webpages, social media, events and webinars, ClusterXchange services, Green Transition Facility services, Cluster Forums, and ECCP documentation. The purpose of the annual survey is: To collect feedback on stakeholders' satisfaction with ECCP activities. To gather ideas for possible future improvements. To measure the outcomes and impact of ECCP activities to evaluate performance. The deadline to complete the survey is 24 November 2021. [EUSurvey - Survey \(europa.eu\)](#)

Join the Women4Cyber Registry. Key objectives of Women4Cyber are to: Create more inclusiveness in cybersecurity Support members; Develop solutions and resources for women considering, entering, or re-entering a career in cybersecurity. Since starting two years ago, the programme has already created an intricate European network of leaders, experts, professionals and students. Through the Women4Cyber channels, community members can exchange information, get business intelligence, find networking opportunities and training offers. The key focus is to link the outcomes to the relevant policies and strategies at an EU level to achieve tangible results for the inclusion and career advancement of women in cyber. [Women 4 Cyber | European Cybersecurity Atlas \(europa.eu\)](#)

A lire

Latest statistics on EU jobs and the EU exports published: a 75% increase in two decades. The Commission released the Report on Trade and Jobs, a new report that provides a host of statistics on the European jobs connected to European exports. It shows how important trade has become for European jobs, with EU exports currently

supporting over 38 million jobs. The results of the analysis are presented in nine categories: by EU Member State, by trading partner, by industry or sector, by skill, by gender, by age, by effect, and in Country factsheets. [Effects of EU exports on employment and income | EU Science Hub \(europa.eu\)](#)

Industry enterprises: largest share of trade value. In 2019, at EU level, even though enterprises from the industry sector only made up about 15% of the total number of importing enterprises, industry's share in the value of imports was 47% - the highest among the 3 categories in 2019. It was the same for exports; the enterprises forming part of the industry sector accounted for 73% of the value of exports, although they only represented 27% of the total number of exporting enterprises. [Database - International trade in goods - Eurostat \(europa.eu\)](#)

Evénements

CONCORDi 2021, the biennial European conference on corporate R&D and innovation, online event, 22 - 25 November 2021. The Conference aims to identify the research, business and policy challenges in this area for the decade to come, and to provide guidance to the EU industrial research and innovation policy agenda. CONCORDi 2021 is organised around the following main themes: Industrial transition in times of recovery (organised by the EC-JRC); Industrial innovation for sustainable transformations (organised by the OECD & EC-JRC) Industrial strategy in a post pandemic world: Focus on developing countries (organised by UNIDO & the EC-JRC); Technology infrastructures to deliver on the twin transition (organised by EARTO & the EC-JRC). [Programme | IRI \(europa.eu\)](#)
[Login \(europa.eu\)](#)

RE Africa Energy Summit, 24 November 2021. This interactive exchange day offers the opportunity for African businesses to meet European & international Technology and Business Leaders during the Conference & Break-Out Sessions. Opportunities to transform energy access in Africa are constantly arising, through renewable energy, Digitalisation provides a potential to make electricity infrastructure affordable, accessible, and available. However as with every opportunity, cost and challenges must be mitigated, as key to the Digitalisation of Africa's energy access is deployment of innovation technologies, creating new financial models while benefiting society and the plants. [Home - Re Energy Summit \(eutech.org\)](#)

The new European Innovation Council (EIC), first Summit, 24 - 25 November 2021, Brussels and online. The Summit is for: European start-ups and innovators, SMEs, Researchers, Corporates as well as potential investors and venture capitalists. The event will focus on the EIC ecosystem policy, emerging technologies and funding opportunities from the EIC. It will provide a unique platform for all participants to network. [European Innovation Council Summit \(europa.eu\)](#)

EIT Food's Future of Food Conference 2021, hybrid event, 30 November 1 December 2021. It will provide a high-level platform to discuss future trends and priorities in food innovation in Europe, in the broader context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the EU Farm to Fork Strategy. The audiences: EU policymakers, EIT Food partners and other key stakeholders active in agri-food innovation, education, entrepreneurship and consumer engagement, as well as industry, farmer and consumer associations. [Future of Food Conference 2021 | Register – Contact information \(eu-ems.com\)](#)

BioFIT 2021, virtual event, 7 to 9 December 2021. With more than 1,300 international actors from 35+ countries, such as big pharma, emerging and small biotech, diagnostic companies, pre-seed / seed / Series A investors, as well as professionals from tech transfer, academia and research institutions, BioFIT is the leading partnering event in Europe for technology transfer, academia-industry collaborations and early-stage innovation deals in the field of Life Sciences. BioFIT is also the European marketplace for pre-seed, seed and Series A investment in Life. [Registration fees - Digital - BioFIT 2021 \(biofit-event.com\)](#)

« Une petite flamme de folie, si on savait comme la vie s'en éclaire ! »
Henry de Montherlant.