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European Commission in Ireland



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Top News

Statement by President von der Leyen on the announcement of universal tariffs by the US

In response to President Trump's announcement of universal tariffs on the whole world, including the EU, President von der Leyen said: (...) Europe will stand at the side of those directly impacted. We have already announced new measures to support the steel and cars sectors. Last week, we limited the amount of steel that can be imported to Europe tariff-free. This will give more breathing space to these strategic industries. Now we will also convene Strategic Dialogues with the steel, the automotive and the pharmaceutical sector. And others will follow. Europe stands together for our businesses, for our workers, and for all Europeans. And we will continue to build bridges with all those that like us care about fair and rules-based trade as the basis for shared prosperity."



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Celebrating Irish winners of the 2025 EU Prize for Women Innovators

On Thursday, 3 April 2025, the Commission has announced the winners and runners-up of the 11th European Prize for Women Innovators at the European Innovation Council (EIC) summit in Brussels. The prize is awarded to women from across the EU and countries associated to Horizon Europe, who have founded a successful company and brought innovation to the market.



This year's edition winners has featured two remarkable women from Ireland who received awards in two categories:

Women Innovators: (2nd place) Rhona Togher (Ireland) – Co-founder of [Lios](#), which developed SoundBounce, a smart acoustic material offering superior noise reduction with versatile applications across industries.

EIT Women Leadership: (3rd place) Elizabeth McGloughlin (Ireland) – Co-founder and CEO of [Tympany Medical](#), whose variable angle endoscopy technology improves patient and healthcare system outcomes. Supported by EIT Health.

Since 2023, the European Prize for Women Innovators has been managed by the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA) and the European Institute for Innovation & Technology (EIT). The prize acknowledges the invaluable role of women in driving transformative change and fostering innovation-driven growth in the European Union.



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Commission unveils ProtectEU – a new European Internal Security Strategy

The European Commission is presenting ProtectEU – a European Internal Security Strategy to support Member States and bolster the EU's ability to guarantee security for its citizens. The strategy sets out an ambitious vision and workplan for the years to come, with a sharper legal toolbox, increased information sharing and deeper co-operation. The Strategy aims to foster a change of culture on internal security, with a whole of society approach involving citizens, businesses, researchers and civil society. Security aspects will be mainstreamed in the development of new initiatives, and a new European internal security governance framework will support the implementation of the Strategy. The European Internal Security Strategy complements the Preparedness Union Strategy and the European Defence White Paper. Together with the forthcoming European Democracy Shield, they form a comprehensive framework for a safe, secure and resilient EU.

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Other news

Commission Launches €5 Million Call to Strengthen European Fact-Checking Network

The Commission has launched a call for proposals to support the growth of a European Network of Fact-Checkers, in line with President von der Leyen's 2024–2029 political guidelines, which introduced the European Democracy Shield initiative. The call aims to contribute to fostering a more trustworthy and safer online environment for European citizens. The initiative will strengthen the capacity of the fact-checking community across Europe, with the aim of ensuring availability in all EU Member States and official languages. It will build on, complement, and expand the work of the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) and other key efforts such as the European Fact-Checking Standards Network (EFCSN).

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A modernised cohesion policy to boost the EU's strategic priorities

The European Commission is revising the EU's cohesion policy to better support EU competitiveness and decarbonisation, defence and security, the Eastern border regions as well as affordable housing, water resilience, and the energy transition. The objective of this initiative is to make cohesion policy more effective, by encouraging Member States and regions to invest in the European strategic priorities, while maintaining the focus of cohesion policy on reducing economic, social and territorial disparities. Member States will be invited to reprogramme part of their 2021-2027 cohesion funds to new investments in the context of the ongoing cohesion policy's mid-term review.



"We must act urgently to strengthen competitiveness, accelerate the energy transition, enhance defence, ensure affordable housing, and improve water resilience. To achieve this, we are reducing bureaucracy, optimizing financing conditions, and expanding investment opportunities. We will work together to redesign programs, delivering tangible benefits to European citizens and unlocking the potential of every territory." Raffaele Fitto, Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms

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Commission supports 135 new projects to help Member States implement their reform agenda

The European Commission has approved a new batch of 135 projects under the Technical Support Instrument (TSI), aimed at supporting Member States in preparing, designing, and implementing 390 reforms in 2025. These projects are designed to help Member States address key reforms that will strengthen the EU's resilience, competitiveness, and improve the lives of citizens. A significant portion – two-thirds – are aligned with the EU's 15 flagship initiatives, which focus on common reform needs, including improving public administration, fostering a better business environment for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and preparing energy systems for the green and digital transitions. More than 130 reforms to support the digital transition have been selected in 2025, with a strong focus on Artificial Intelligence ('AI') and innovative technologies. These will support Member States to reap the productivity gains from technology towards tomorrow's economy. For example, with the project "FutureProof Education", the TSI will support schools in Germany, Sweden, and Ireland to develop guidance for the responsible and meaningful use of AI in schools, as well as to set up AI literacy programmes.

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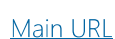
Call for applications: Young Elected Politicians (YEP) Programme



Statistic of the week

New Eurobarometer survey on EU citizens' travel habits

Statement	Percentage (%)
1) It is important to communicate with the public	94%
2) It is to be fair	87%
3) It depends on what kind of an environment and what kind of a situation	82%
4) It is to be easy to find out the information	80%
5) The content of the information should be useful, practical and motivating to the reader, social and	78%
6) The organization of the information is important in a good way	77%
7) The organization of the information is equally adapted to the needs of the public and the needs of the business	75%
8) It is possible to communicate in a good way	73%
9) It is often not the same level of acceptance, right or not of different communications or different companies	72%
10) Other	1%
11) None of these	1%
12) Don't know/No opinion	5%

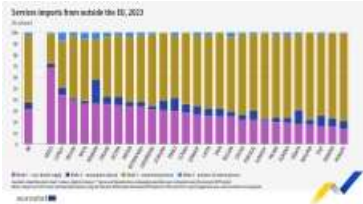




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EU imported €3.3 trillion worth of services in 2023

New Eurostat figures show that in 2023, imported services from outside the EU totalled €3 344 billion. When analyzing by mode of supply, data show that 60% (€1 996 billion) of the EU's imports of services were related to the commercial presence (mode 3), 31% (€1 030 billion) to cross-border supply (mode 1), 6% (€ 0.215 billion) to consumption abroad (mode 2) and 3% (€0.103 billion) to the presence of natural persons (mode 4). Among EU countries, in 2023, cross-border supply (mode 1) was dominant in Greece (68% of imports), Cyprus (44%) and Ireland (39%).



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New records set by online booking platforms in 2024

According to new Eurostat data, in 2024, guests spent 854.1 million nights in short-term rental accommodation in the EU, booked via Airbnb, Booking, Expedia Group or TripAdvisor. This represents an 18.8% increase compared with 2023 (719.0 million nights), setting a new record high. The most popular regions for short-term rental accommodation booked via online platforms in the third quarter of 2024 were Jadranska Hrvatska in Croatia, Andalucía in Spain and the French Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. In the same quarter, among the top 20 regions, 6 were in France, 5 each in Spain and Italy, 2 in Greece and 1 region each in Croatia and Portugal.



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Agenda

Monday 7 April: Foreign Affairs Council (Trade)

On this link you will find all the information related to this meeting.

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Wednesday 9 April: Can Europe act Strategically to a Changed Geopolitical Reality? (IIEA event)

Europe finds itself in a new geopolitical reality. While Russia's continues its war of aggression against Ukraine and threatens to advance on Europe's Eastern Flank, the transatlantic relationship is undergoing a period of change. Since the United States signalled that Europe will need to do more for its own defence, European capitals have been attempting to recalibrate to a new reality where there is less certainty of US commitment to the security of Europe. In her remarks to the IIEA, Judy Dempsey will discuss the challenges which Europe faces in this new geopolitical moment, and whether we will be able to adapt to meet this new reality.

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Wednesday 9 April: EU-Ukraine Association Council

On this link you will find all the information related to this meeting.

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Friday 10 April to Saturday 11 April: EU-Ukraine Business Summit in Brussels

On 10-11 April 2025, the European Commission and European Business Summits, will host the 2025 EU-Ukraine Business Summit in Brussels in partnership with Ukraine, Italy as organiser of the 2025 Ukraine Recovery Conference and the Polish EU Presidency. This key event will bring together European investors and business leaders eager to contribute to Ukraine's reconstruction and economic recovery.

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Thursday 10 April: Juvenes Translatores Awards Ceremony in Brussels

Juvenes Translatores is an annual EU-wide translation contest for 17-year-old secondary school students. The aim is to inspire and encourage young people to learn languages. The 27 winning students — one per EU member state — are invited to an award ceremony in Brussels, accompanied by teachers and parents. Join live on Thursday 10 April at 10:30 (Brussels time) to celebrate the winners of the 2024-2025 Juvenes Translatores contest!

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Friday 11 April: Eurogroup meeting in Warsaw (Poland)

On this link you will find all the information relating to this meeting.

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