

## EU NEWS YOU CAN USE

European Commission in Ireland



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### In this issue

- Top News
- Other news
- Statistic of the week
- Agenda
- Job opportunities

### Top News

#### EU adopts 18th package of sanctions against Russia

The European Commission welcomes the Council's adoption of the 18th Russia sanctions package, aimed at further ramping up pressure on the country and supporting EU's goal of achieving a just and lasting peace for Ukraine. The new measures focus on five building blocks: cutting Russia's energy revenues, hitting Russia's banking sector, further weakening its military-industrial complex, strengthening anti-circumvention measures, and holding Russia accountable for its crimes against Ukrainian children and cultural heritage. With this package, the number of listed vessels in Russia's shadow fleet reaches a total of 444 vessels, and the number of individual listings exceeds 2,500. This package also includes new sanctions against Belarus.



[permalink](#)

[Main URL](#)

[more](#)

#### EU agri-food trade grows, maintaining surplus

The balance of trade in EU agri-food remains robust with a surplus of €22.5 billion for the months of January to April this year. EU agri-food exports reached €20.1 billion in April 2025. This is a 4% drop from March but still 2% above the same month last year. Between January and April, cumulative exports rose by 3% year-on-year, reaching €79.7 billion. The UK was the strongest growth market between January and April, with exports up €778 million (+4%), mainly due to higher cocoa product prices. The US followed with an increase of €686 million (+7%), despite exports dropping back in April. Exports to Switzerland rose by €467 million (+11%), also led by cocoa-based products. On the import side, cumulative agri-food imports reached €64.4 billion between January and April; up 17% (€9.2 billion) compared to 2024. Imports in April reached €16.2 billion, 8% higher than a year earlier, despite a 4% reduction compared to the previous month.

[permalink](#)[Main URL](#)[more](#)

## From Ballinlough to Brussels - school visit features in Irish newspaper

In June, the European Commission Representation in Ireland, in collaboration with the European Parliament Liaison Office in Ireland and European Movement Ireland, hosted a group of Irish primary and secondary school teachers in Brussels where they visited the EU institutions. The visit included a meeting with Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection Michael McGrath and 10 Members of the European Parliament for a roundtable discussion. Principal Tara Jordan and Niamh Huane, teachers in Ballinlough National School, Co. Roscommon have produced a piece for their local newspaper Roscommon Herald with their experience of the visit.

[permalink](#)[Main URL](#)[more](#)

## Other news

### EU-Japan Summit: Strengthening Ties for a Sustainable Future

On 23 July, leaders from the European Union and Japan convened for the annual EU-Japan Summit, showcasing the partnership that has continued to flourish amidst global challenges. A central theme of the summit was the mutual dedication to sustainable growth and development. Both the EU and Japan reiterated their commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Economic resilience was another key focus, with both parties emphasizing the importance of strengthening supply chains and fostering trade relationships. The summit addressed issues of global concern, such as cybersecurity and the promotion of democratic values. The leaders pledged to work together to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific region, affirming their commitment to countering activities that threaten international stability.

[permalink](#)[Main URL](#)[more](#)

### Joint EU-China press statement on climate

At the EU-China Summit in Beijing, leaders commemorated the 50th anniversary of China-EU diplomatic ties and the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement by issuing a joint statement. They emphasized the importance of maintaining policy continuity and stability to tackle climate change in today's turbulent international climate. Strengthening China-EU climate cooperation was highlighted as crucial for global climate governance and multilateralism. The leaders reaffirmed the significance of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement as foundations for international climate efforts, urging all parties to implement these frameworks in line with their national circumstances. They also recognized the China-EU green partnership's importance, noting the strong foundation for collaboration in the green transition.

[permalink](#)[Main URL](#)

[more](#)

## Continued growth in revenue and registrations confirms success of reformed EU VAT rules for e-commerce

New figures from Member States show that more than €33 billion in VAT revenues were collected in 2024 via the EU's e-commerce VAT systems, a clear sign that the 2021 reforms are delivering on their promise to simplify compliance, support businesses, and ensure fairer taxation. Through a single registration in one Member State, the One Stop Shop (OSS) and Import One Stop Shop (IOSS) allow businesses to declare and remit VAT for cross-border sales of goods and services within the EU, as well as for imports of low-value goods. These figures set the stage for further simplifications to come with the VAT in the Digital Age (ViDA) package and the ongoing EU Customs Reform, to make the system even more efficient, fair, and fraud resistant.

[permalink](#)[Main URL](#)[more](#)

## Commission calls on Member States to fully transpose the Directive criminalising the violation of Union restrictive measures

The European Commission decided to open infringement procedures by sending a letter of formal notice to 18 Member States, including Ireland, for failing to notify measures fully transposing the Directive on the criminalisation of the violation of Union restrictive measures (Directive (EU) 2024/1226). The Directive establishes common rules harmonising the definition of criminal offences and penalties for the violation of Union restrictive measures. The Commission is therefore sending letters of formal notice to the Member States concerned, which now have two months to respond, complete their transposition and notify their measures to the Commission. In the absence of a satisfactory response, the Commission may decide to issue a reasoned opinion.

[permalink](#)[Main URL](#)[more](#)

## Commission calls on Member States to transpose the reinforced rules to promote renewable energy

The European Commission decided to open infringement procedures by sending letters of formal notice to 26 Member States, including Ireland, for failing to communicate to the European Commission the full transposition of the provisions of the amending Directive (EU) 2023/2413 into national law. The new rules aim to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy in all sectors of the economy, not only in the power sector, but also and especially in those sectors where progress is more difficult like heating and cooling, buildings, transport and industry. The Commission is therefore sending letters of formal notice to 26 Member States. They now have two months to respond, complete their transposition and notify their measures to the Commission. In the absence of a satisfactory response, the Commission may decide to issue a reasoned opinion.


[permalink](#)
[Main URL](#)
[more](#)

## Statistic of the week

### EU citizens widely perceive corruption in both local and national public institutions

A recent Eurobarometer survey was designed to explore the level of corruption perceived and experienced by EU citizens. Key findings of the survey show that 71% of EU citizens consider it never acceptable to do a favour to receive something from public administration or public services and 80% of respondents find giving money to get something from the public administration or public service never acceptable. 69% of Europeans believe that corruption is widespread in their country; 51% believe that corruption is widespread among political parties. In Ireland, an estimate 63% of respondents consider corruption to be widespread in their country. The responses show that Europeans remain sceptical about efforts to address corruption, with two-thirds of Europeans think that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their countries.


[permalink](#)
[Main URL](#)

more

Environmental tax revenue shows slight increase in 2023

In 2023, environmental tax revenue in the EU reached €341.5 billion, a 2.1% increase compared to 2022. The majority of this revenue came from energy taxes (€261 billion), followed by taxes on transport and pollution/resources, Eurostat data shows. Households contributed 48.3% of total environmental tax revenues in the EU but this share was even higher in Ireland. With 60.3%, Irish households paid the largest share in the Union, well above the EU average. Other high contributors included the Netherlands (57.5%), while Luxembourg (16.5%) and Czechia (17.6%) recorded the lowest household shares. Ireland’s position highlights the strong role households play in the country’s environmental tax system.



permalink

Main URL

more

Agenda

Thursday, 18 September: Developing a Life Sciences Vision for Ireland: The EU Agenda (IIEA Event)

Developing a Life Sciences Vision for Ireland: The EU Agenda will examine how Ireland can position its national life sciences strategy in the context of the European Commission’s 2025 Strategy for European Life Sciences and other new EU initiatives. Drawing on national and EU-level experience, panellists will discuss key developments in EU life sciences policy and what Europe is doing to strengthen its competitiveness, research capacity, and innovation ecosystem. The event will then explore how Ireland can secure and strengthen its own role as a key player in Europe’s life sciences landscape by aligning its policy ambitions with emerging European trends.



permalink

Main URL

more

## Friday, 19 September: Europe Expressed (EMI Event)

With over 450 million citizens, the EU is a hub for culture and creativity that stretches beyond national borders and across our shared Union. Yet how much do you know about how the EU supports art, architecture, cultural heritage, design, literature and publishing, music, performing arts, film, animation or video games? This Culture Night, the Creative Europe Desk and European Movement Ireland are collaborating to put the 'fun' in EU funding and showcase the power that culture and media has to bring citizens across Europe together. Join at 8 Fitzwilliam St. Lower any time between 17.00-20.30 and check out our exhibition of successfully funded creative projects, chat with staff about funding options for your next piece and enjoy live music as you journey through your 2025 Culture Night.

[permalink](#)[Main URL](#)[more](#)

## Thursday 25 September: A Keynote Address by Cecilia Malmström (IEEA Event)

Cecilia Malmström served as European Commissioner for Trade from 2014 to 2019, and as European Commissioner for Home Affairs from 2010 to 2014. She was a member of the European Parliament from 1999 until 2006. She was also Minister for EU Affairs in the Swedish Government from 2006 to 2010. As European commissioner for Trade, Malmström represented the European Union in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and other international trade bodies. She was responsible for negotiation bilateral trade agreements with key countries, including agreements with Canada, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, Vietnam, and the four founding Mercosur countries.

[permalink](#)[Main URL](#)[more](#)

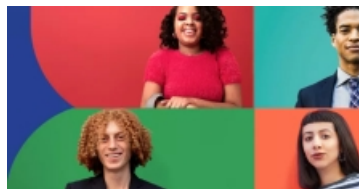


## Job opportunities

10/07/2025

### Blue Book Traineeship programme opens for application for March 2026 session

The Blue Book Traineeship programme is a five-month paid internship offered by the European Commission, providing graduates from around the world with hands-on experience in EU policymaking and administration in the European Commission's Directorates-General, Agencies or Commissioners' Cabinets in Brussels, Luxembourg or other EU locations. Candidates will be able to submit an administrative or translation traineeship application via EU Login from 15 July at 10:00 Brussels time until 29 August 2025 at 10:00, for the five-month traineeship running from 1 March to 31 July 2026.



permalink

[Main URL](#)

more

24/07/2025

### Vacancy notice – General Services Officer - Facilities (Strasbourg, France)

EU-Lisa has published a vacancy notice for the position of General Services Officer – Facilities (AD5) in Corporate Services Department / General Services Sector. The ideal candidate will be responsible for contributing to the implementation of sustainable and optimised maintenance programmes to ensure functional, safe, and efficient building infrastructure and green spaces (see more details in the vacancy notice). Deadline for Applications: 28 August 2025, 11:59:00 AM CET / 12:59:00 PM EET



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[Main URL](#)

more

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