



## Actualités

**Plan d'action sur les synergies entre les industries civile, spatiale et de la défense.** Pour la première fois, les fonds européens ouvrent des perspectives en ce qui concerne le renforcement de l'innovation européenne, grâce à l'étude et à l'exploitation du potentiel de rupture de technologies au croisement d'utilisations dans les secteurs civil, spatial et de la défense. Les principaux objectifs: renforcer la complémentarité entre les programmes et instruments pertinents de l'UE ayant trait à la recherche, au développement et au déploiement (**synergies**); encourager l'octroi de fonds européens en faveur de la recherche et du développement, y compris dans les domaines spatial et de la défense, ayant des retombées positives, sur les plans économique et technologique, (**spin-offs**); et faciliter l'utilisation des résultats de la recherche menée par l'industrie civile et de l'innovation axée sur la société civile dans le cadre des projets européens de coopération en matière de défense (**spin-ins**). Compte tenu de ces objectifs, la Commission annonce onze actions ciblées: mettre en place un cadre renforçant les synergies et l'enrichissement mutuel entre les différents programmes et instruments de l'UE, dans le domaine du numérique, de l'informatique en nuage et des processeurs; définir le développement des technologies essentielles, en élaborant des feuilles de route technologiques, et enfin en lançant des projets phares visant à réduire la dépendance, à favoriser la normalisation et l'interopérabilité, à encourager une coopération transfrontière, à créer de nouvelles chaînes de valeur; encourager l'innovation chez les jeunes pousses, les PME et les organisations de recherche en mettant en place un réseau d'«incubateurs d'innovation»; préparer le lancement de trois projets phares susceptibles de changer la donne, à savoir les **technologies des drones**, une **connectivité spatiale sécurisée**, ainsi que la **gestion du trafic spatial**. [action plan on synergies design v9 en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

**Launch of the InvestEU Programme.** Invest EU will provide the EU with crucial long-term funding to support sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and help build a greener, more digital, and more resilient European economy. The Invest EU program builds on the successful model of the Investment Plan for Europe and the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which mobilized more than €500 billion in total. With the aim of triggering a new wave – of more than €370 billion - in additional investment using an EU budget guarantee, the Invest EU program aims to give an additional boost to investment, innovation and job creation in Europe over the period 2021–27. The Invest EU program will be supported by a dedicated website which will serve as a one-stop shop; a unique entry point for Invest EU stakeholders and citizens to access information on the program. **Launch/Clusters and SMEs can join the virtual launch event on 18 March** at 15:30 CET to learn more about the Invest EU Fund, Advisory Hub and Portal, and the opportunities on offer. [EUSurvey - Survey \(europa.eu\)](#)

**Commission sets course for an open, sustainable and assertive EU trade strategy.** Responding to current challenges, the strategy prioritises a major reform of the World Trade Organization, including global commitments on trade and climate, new rules for digital trade, reinforced rules to tackle competitive distortions, and restoring its system for binding dispute settlement. First, by contributing to achieve the European Green Deal objectives. Second, by removing unjustified trade barriers in the digital economy to reap the benefits of digital technologies in trade. By reinforcing its alliances, such as the transatlantic partnership, together with a stronger focus on neighbouring countries and Africa, the EU will be better able to shape global change. In tandem, the EU will adopt a tougher, more assertive approach towards implementation and enforcement of its trade agreements, fighting unfair trade and

addressing sustainability concerns. The EU is stepping up its efforts to ensure that its agreements deliver the negotiated benefits for its workers, farmers and citizens. [An open, sustainable and assertive trade policy \(europa.eu\)](#)

**New guidance documents to facilitate the free movement of goods.** The Commission adopted three guidance documents that aim to help European citizens, businesses, but also national administrations to fully harness the single market for goods. Specifically, the [Guidance on the implementation of the 2019 Regulation on Mutual Recognition](#) offers detailed information on various aspects of the regulation, including on the mutual recognition declaration for operators, the assessment of goods for national authorities, and on support services provided by [SOLVIT centres](#). The [guidance on the application of treaty provisions regarding the free movement of goods](#) gives an overview of the relevant case law of the Court of Justice of the EU on obstacles that may affect goods and operators in the single market. [The guidance on the market surveillance of goods clarifying Article 4 of the new Market Surveillance Regulation](#) aims to strengthen market surveillance in the EU and help ensure that products reaching the EU market, particularly those sold online, comply with EU product rules.

**Consultation on the application of EU competition law to collective bargaining agreements for self-employed.**

According to EU competition law, self-employed are considered 'undertakings' and thus risk infringing competition rules when they bargain collectively. Whilst it is not for competition policy to address the social challenges faced by self-employed people, the initiative could ensure that EU competition rules do not prevent self-employed in a weak position from engaging in collective negotiations or agreements to improve their working conditions. Any action in this field would at the same time need to ensure that consumers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) continue to benefit from competitive prices and innovative business models, including in the digital economy. Dead line: 28 May 2021. [EU competition rules do not stand in the way of collective bargaining](#)

**New EU strategy on adaptation to climate change.** The Strategy pursues three objectives: **To make adaptation smarter** - improving knowledge and availability of data, while managing the inherent uncertainty brought upon us by climate change; securing more and better data on climate-related risk and losses, and making [Climate-ADAPT](#) the authoritative European platform for adaptation knowledge. **To make adaptation more systemic** - supporting policy development at all levels of governance, society and the economy and in all sectors by improving adaptation strategies and plans; integrating climate resilience in macro-fiscal policy, and promoting nature-based solutions for adaptation. **To speed up adaptation across the board** - by accelerating the development and rollout of adaptation solutions; reducing climate-related risk; closing the climate protection gap, and ensuring the availability and sustainability of fresh water. [eu strategy 2021.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

**Updated approach to fiscal policy response to coronavirus pandemic.** The coordination of national fiscal policies is essential to support the economic recovery. The Communication specifies that fiscal policy should remain agile and adjust to the evolving situation. It warns against a premature withdrawal of fiscal support, which should be maintained this year and next. It provides that once health risks diminish, fiscal measures should gradually pivot to more targeted and forward-looking measures that promote a resilient and sustainable recovery and that fiscal policies should take into account the impact of the RRF. [Communication on fiscal policy response to pandemic \(europa.eu\)](#)

**Communication on the labelling of EU fertilising products.** It answers basic questions such as what information is mandatory on the label, in what language, how to provide information on storage and use instructions, and many more. This includes concrete examples of labels for the various types of EU fertilising products, which manufacturers can use when designing their own labels. The document is not legally binding and serves as a guide. In the end, it is up to the manufacturer to decide where to place the information on the label and how to format it, as long as all the information required in the Regulation is presented. [DocsRoom - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

**Investigation to decide whether to prolong the steel safeguard measure.** The Commission has initiated an investigation to assess whether the safeguard measure currently in place on imports of certain steel products should be prolonged beyond 30 June 2021. The initiation of this investigation follows a duly substantiated request received from twelve EU Member States. The Commission will in its investigation determine, in accordance with the requirements of EU and WTO rules, whether the safeguard measure continues to be necessary to prevent or remedy

serious injury to the EU steel industry and whether the industry is adjusting. The investigation will also include a Union interest assessment. The investigation will be concluded by the expiry date of the existing safeguard measure on 30 June 2021. [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOC\\_2021\\_066\\_R\\_0014&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOC_2021_066_R_0014&from=EN)

## Opportunités

**Lancement officiel du Conseil européen de l'innovation (EIC).** L'EIC est une nouveauté essentielle d'Horizon Europe et représente l'initiative la plus ambitieuse que l'Europe ait prise en matière d'innovation, avec un budget de 10 milliards d'euros pour la période 2021-2027. L'EIC a pour mission d'identifier, de développer et de "scaler" des technologies de pointe et des innovations de rupture. L'EIC soutiendra les start-ups, les PME et les équipes de recherche qui développent ces innovations à haut risque et à fort impact, et qui contribuent aux objectifs du "Green Deal" européen et du plan de relance pour l'Europe [Welcome to the DG Timo Pesonen's meeting with DG DEFIS Staff \(ncpwallonie.be\)](#). Le **18 mars: Cérémonie de lancement**, **19 mars: Applicants' day**. [Lancement des appels EIC \(Conseil européen de l'innovation\) \(ncpwallonie.be\)](#)

**Webinars on Standard Essential Patents (SEPs).** It can take stock of the state-of-play, shares some of the ideas developed under recent actions and discuss with stakeholders potential improvements to the framework governing SEPs. 23 March 2021, 14.30 (CET) - FRAND licensing & valuation: Which are the key principles and how to render them more operational? 20 April 2021, 14.30 (CET) - Patent pools: How to make patent pools work for both SEP holders and licensees? 4 May 2021, 14.30 (CET) - Enforcement of Standard Essential Patents - current bottlenecks and possible solutions. [GROW-IP-CONFERENCES@ec.europa.eu](mailto:GROW-IP-CONFERENCES@ec.europa.eu)

**Strengthening innovation through supporting cluster cooperation and start-up ecosystems in the Southern Neighbourhood countries.** DEADLINE: 08 April 2021. Under the European Commission's [International Cooperation and Development](#), a call for proposals on start-ups, innovation and clusters has been published. The objective of this call for proposals is to contribute to the creation of sustainable jobs in the Southern Neighbourhood by increasing the competitiveness of SMEs, and stimulating an environment conducive to innovation and economic growth. The specific objectives of this call for proposals are: For Lot 1: To support the development of start-up ecosystems and increase the capacity of local actors, through assisting innovation organisations and Tech Hubs in generating value-added activities, new sources of economic growth and employment. For Lot 2: To support the development of clusters in specific sectors and enhance cluster cooperation with Europe in order to generate new sources of economic growth and employment. [Online Services - Online Services - Programmes de coopération extérieure - Commission européenne \(europa.eu\)](#)

**PULSATE Technology Transfer Experiments open call.** DEADLINE: 22 April 2021. It targets potential manufacturing sectors with a solid track record of using Laser Based Advanced and Additive Manufacturing (LBAAM) technologies, as well as those that are currently underrepresented – **aerospace (aeronautics), automotives, medical devices, industrial machinery, customised electronics and textiles and clothing**. Selected Technology Transfer Experiments (TTE) will become part of the 13-month PULSATE Support Programme, which includes: technical support from industry experts; business development support; up to €150,000 in funding per experiment; media exposure; access to private and public funding. TTEs must be proposed by a consortium including a minimum of 2 SMEs and/or slightly bigger companies, which act as the: Technology provider (system integrators): Any entity which designs, builds or rebuilds, programs, installs, modifies, distributes, or supplies systems and/or technology for LBAAM. Manufacturing company (end-user/technology adopter). [PULSATE Technology Transfer Experiments \(fundingbox.com\)](#)

**The PRIMA Call:** The Partnership on Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) will develop much-needed solutions for a more sustainable management of water and agri-food systems in the Mediterranean basin. It is a ten-year initiative (2018-2028), partly funded by EU's research and innovation programme Horizon 2020. The PRIMA foundation is in charge of implementing the partnership. Foundation launches yearly calls for proposals to mobilise the Euro-Mediterranean scientific communities, stakeholders and public and private entities to identify research and innovation solutions for more sustainable water and food management. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/research-area/environment/prima\\_en/](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/research-area/environment/prima_en/)

## A lire

**Allemagne, Rapport annuel sur la recherche et l'innovation** . La Commission allemande d'experts pour la recherche et l'innovation a présenté son rapport annuel qui recommande au gouvernement d'aligner sa future politique de R&I sur des priorités comme les objectifs de durabilité, le développement technologique, l'intelligence artificielle, l'hydrogène et la technologie quantique. Il s'agit d'éléments décisifs pour renforcer encore la position de l'Allemagne parmi les principaux sites d'innovation au niveau international. Jahresgutachten: Forschung und Innovation weiter vorantreiben (bundesregierung.de)

**Low carbon energy technologies: successes and opportunities**. A dedicated 2020 report for each technology identifies development trends and market barriers, as well as best practices for use of private and public funds and for policy measures. In addition, the LCEO monitors relevant future emerging concepts. The LCEO was created on the initiative of Directorate-General for Research and Innovation and add Horizon 2020, the EU research and innovation programme (2014-2020). Low carbon energy technologies: successes and opportunities | EU Science Hub (europa.eu)

## Evénements

**Webinar on the economics of climate change - 25 March 2021: Towards a carbon neutral economy - what role for economic policies?** The webinar will comprise three sessions: The cost of inaction on climate change, The design of cost-effective economic policies to mitigate climate change and Macro-economics and climate action – what are the missing links? The seminar will bring together a range of researchers, academics and experts from the European Commission and the International Monetary Fund. EUSurvey - Survey (europa.eu)

**The role of public procurement in supporting SMEs towards sustainable recovery 23 Mar 2021** . ACCA, SMEUnited and the EBRD are thus delighted to invite to a lively web-conference to examine these issues – what are the obstacles SMEs face? How can governments reduce these barriers to promote better SME inclusion in public procurement contracts?  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeYPHlwsvbsinzPH3EYNlAnFyI9tExREwEUq3FzzXZB6aFLg/viewform?xi ds=7628>

**Refresher and Advanced Course for DPOs and Data Protection Experts, 23 Mar 2021 to 25 Mar 2021**. This course is designed to help you to refresh and update your data protection knowledge. Concrete examples, role playing, peer-to-peer discussions as well as relevant and realistic case studies will help you to refine your expertise and deepen your understanding of your duties and responsibilities. <https://www.eipa.eu/product/data-protection-refresher-2/>

**Clean Aviation for a Competitive Green Recovery in Europe: Innovative Ideas Take Flight, 22 April 2021**. Clean and sustainable aviation, which is facing significant challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is recognised as a vital element for Europe's success in a highly competitive world. Clean Sky is committed to supporting a sustainable economic recovery and to making climate-neutral aviation a reality, in close alignment with the European Commission's Green Deal. Registration- Clean Sky 2 Online event- 22 April 2021 | Clean Sky

**Fueling productivity and business dynamism after COVID, 19 29 April 2021**. This event is co-organized by the European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation and the OECD Science, Technology and Innovation Directorate. It will showcase the outcomes of the project, providing new insights for EU policy debates. This event will bring together academics, international experts, and policy makers to discuss new evidence from recent academic studies and national evaluations on business dynamism, and productivity growth and dispersion. MultiProd: Uncovering the micro drivers of aggregate productivity - OECD

*« Les aptitudes sont ce que vous pouvez faire. La motivation détermine ce que vous faites.  
Votre attitude détermine votre degré de réussite ».*  
Lou Holtz