

Agenda of the European Commission

16 – 22 June 2014

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

Monday 16 June:

Commission presents annual Taxation Trends report

Wednesday 18 June:

Commission wants to bring countries of the Adriatic and Ionian Macro-Region closer together

Wednesday 18 June:

REFIT: further progress in making EU law lighter, simpler and cheaper

Monday 16 June:

Commission presents annual Taxation Trends report

The news:

On 16 June, the European Commission will present the 2014 edition of its Taxation Trends report. This report takes stock of the tax systems in the Member States, including extensive and comparable data on their tax structures and rates. It also provides an analysis on the evolution of these trends over the medium- to long-term period.

The background:

Taxation is at the heart of citizens' relationship with the State. Government experts, academics, and many individual are interested in comparative tax levels in the EU. This report, published annually, is one way of answering them.

Indeed, the Taxation Trends report compiles tax indicators that allow comparison of the tax systems and tax policies between EU Member States. It offers a breakdown of tax revenues raised either from consumption, labour or capital. It also contains data on energy taxation and on the top rates for personal and corporate income taxes. It gives an overview of each of the 28 EU countries covered, their revenue trends and recent tax policy changes.

The event:

- A technical briefing on the main results of the Report will be organised on Monday 16 June in the press room of Berlaymont Building, after the Midday briefing (around 12h30) by experts from the European Commission.
- Available on EbS
- The report and a press release will be available in front of the press room.

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Wednesday 18 June:

Commission wants to bring countries of the Adriatic and Ionian Macro-Region closer together

The news:

The Commission has officially launched a new EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region to make sure its 70 million residents reap the benefit of closer cooperation in areas like preserving the marine environment, completing missing transport and energy links and boosting sustainable tourism.

The Strategy will also provide a valuable opportunity for would be members and candidates of the EU to work alongside EU members, thus contributing to their integration into the European Union.

This is the first EU 'macro-regional strategy' with an equal balance of EU members (Croatia, Greece, Italy, and Slovenia) and non-EU countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia). The focus will be above all on blue growth, land-sea transport, energy connectivity, protecting the environment and sustainable tourism. Through this, the Strategy will contribute to boosting economic growth and jobs in the region. The [Maritime Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Seas](#), adopted by the Commission on 30 November 2012, forms the starting point and is incorporated in the Strategy.

The background:

The [European Council of 13-14 December 2012](#) requested the Commission to bring forward an EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region before the end of 2014, building on the experiences of the [Danube](#) and [Baltic Sea](#) Regions. The newly launched Strategy takes into account the outcomes of the on-line public stakeholder consultations conducted between October 2013 and January 2014 as well as the discussions from the closing [Stakeholder Conference in Athens on 6-7 February 2014](#). It is expected that the European Council, under the Italian Presidency, will endorse the Strategy later this year.

The event:

Wednesday 18 June, 13:15 a.m.

- Press Round Table with Commissioner Johannes Hahn and Commissioner Maria Damanaki on the launch of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region.
- Please contact Angeliki.Kallianou@ec.europa.eu if you would like to attend.

The sources:

A press release (IP) and a MEMO will be published via [RAPID](#) on Wednesday 18 June

For further information:

[Towards an EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region](#)

[EU Macro-Regional Strategies](#)

[Study on the Adriatic Ionian sea basin cooperation](#)

[Brochure on Blue Growth \(data by country and sea basin\)](#)

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Wednesday 18 June:

REFIT: further progress in making EU law lighter, simpler and cheaper

The news:

The Commission continues to push its agenda for simplification of EU law.

Just a few days ahead of the European Council, it will present a report on the progress made to implement its Regulatory Fitness and Performance (REFIT) programme, which is at the heart of the Commission's smart regulation efforts. The Commission will also present a number of new initiatives. A scoreboard, published for the first time, will detail the progress made in implementing each individual REFIT initiative.

The background:

With its Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT) launched in December 2012, the Commission committed to a simple, clear, stable and predictable regulatory framework for business, workers and citizens. Under REFIT, the Commission screened the entire stock of EU legislation for burdens, inconsistencies and ineffective measures and identified corrective action. The aim is to make sure that the policy objectives are achieved and the benefits of EU legislation are enjoyed at lowest cost and with a minimum of administrative burden, in full respect of the Treaties.

In the October 2013 Communication on REFIT , the Commission defined an ambitious agenda with over 100 individual actions including 46 legislative actions to simplify and reduce regulatory burden, 7 initiatives to repeal existing regulation and 9 initiatives to withdraw proposals for new regulation. In addition, the Commission committed to carry-out 47 Fitness Checks and evaluations under REFIT to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of EU regulation and prepare future initiatives for simplification and regulatory burden reduction. The Commission also identified areas where initiatives foreseen would not be taken forward.

The sources:

www.ec.europa.eu/refit

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