EU News
Monthly Journal

Number 134
November 2014

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under the auspices of Pavel Kysilka
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Dear readers,

October was another of the series of autumn months that was characterized by anything but boredom in the discipline of monitoring and analyzing key European issues. The traditional European Council summit, however stands out among the events.

This time the main item on the agenda of the highest representatives of the EU member states was the new climate and energy package which establishes targets for 2030. To be precise, the article on page 5 in the Commission's column section is devoted to this topic. Besides the target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 40% (compared to 1990), the target of increasing the share of renewable energy to 27% on average for the entire EU also passed. The target of increasing energy efficiency by 27%, which a number of member states including the Czech Republic had a problem with was also approved but will only have an indicative character.

The European Commission will already be under the command of its new helmsman Jean-Claude Juncker and its new members. This time the grilling in front of MEPs had only one victim: the Slovenian representative and former Prime Minister Alenka Bratušek who had nominated herself, against the current Slovenian government and moreover during the discussion in the EP committee showed weak knowledge of the energy issues.

Conversely a key vote in the plenary session of the European Parliament on 22 October confirmed that the Czech Republic has its historic first female EU Commissioner. The former Minister for Regional Development will hold a diverse portfolio dedicated to justice, consumer policy and gender equality. We will probably hear a lot about Věťa Jourová as demonstrated by the plan she outlined to MEPs. According to this plan, the EU Commissioner would like the directive establishing a minimum 40% proportion of women in the management of Europe's largest companies listed on stock exchanges to come into force by next year.

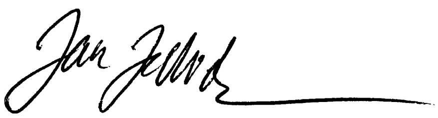
At the same time, if such a quota were also applied to the European Commission, its current composition would not pass. Nine women in a twenty-eight member team represents "only" 32%. You can read about which countries sent women and which sent men to Brussels and which portfolios they will be in charge of in our main topic, which begins on page 8.

Let's turn now from the composition of the European executive and take a look at the plans of potential applicants for grants from EU funds in the new 2014-2020 period. According to these, 3/4 of municipalities and 2/3 of companies plan to apply for a subsidy from EU funds, despite the high administrative complexity of the whole process, which 98% (!) of municipalities and 86% of companies reported as a major drawback. An analysis based on the survey done by the Association of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Crafts of the Czech Republic can be found in the Microscope section on page 7.

We began the editorial with measures to protect the environment, so let us also finish with this. The section Dating the MFF on page 15 presents the financial instrument LIFE to you which has been part of the EU budget since 1992 and aims to support the implementation of legislation and EU policies in the field of the environment.

Dear readers, perhaps our Monthly will help you successfully overcome this dreary period of fog, inversion and increasingly shorter days.

Jan Jedlička



The grilling storm ultimately had only one victim, the Slovenian Alenka Bratušek. - The new composition of the European Commission was approved. The Czech Republic has its first female European Commissioner. - Věra Jourová wants to introduce quotas by 2015 at the latest. - Britain and the Netherlands have to send more money to the EU budget. - European Union member states lost 177 billion euros in Value Added Tax.

POLITICS

The grilling storm ultimately had only one victim

MEPs in committees kept a total of five candidates for new commissioners "hostage", but ultimately rejected only the Slovenian **Alenka Bratušek**. Therefore the former Slovenian Prime Minister left Brussels empty handed. On the contrary, the controversial Spaniard Arias Cañete and Frenchman Pierre Moscovici were approved.

Of the 28 candidates for Commissioners, in the end there was only one candidate the committees did not recommend for approval in the plenary session of the European Parliament. The outcome of the vote of the committees for industry and the environment was unusually clear – a mere 13 deputes voted to accept the Slovenian candidate, while **112 opposed** this.

This rejection is not surprising. MEPs had already formed a negative impression of the former Slovenian Prime Minister in the talks preceding the actual hearing. Moreover, during the grilling Bratušeková **failed to demonstrate knowledge of energy issues** and was even unable to accurately identify the job responsibilities she would have as a Commission Vice President.

Bratušeková also faced criticism due to the fact that she alone in the government **voted in favor of her nomination** as Commissioner in July after losing the May elections. Even though a slight majority of six ministers opposed the nomination, a special voting procedure was used, in which seven cabinet members were needed to reject the proposal.

Because of this the Slovenian ethics committee initiated an investigation against Bratušekové, but the publication of its outcome was avoided by not collecting it at the post office. **The new government in Ljubljana wanted to withdraw her nomination**, but this was not possible once Bratušeková had already been nominated as a candidate.

Even MEPs in the liberal group, which includes her newly established party, rejected the Slovenian. MEPs in the EPP group who did not want changes in the Juncker Cabinet had long opposed the rejection of Bratušekové.

http://www.elections2014.eu/en/new-commission/hearing/20140918HEA65216

The Juncker Commission confirms the Czech Republic's first female European Commissioner

On October 22, the European Parliament gave the green light to the Commission which Luxembourg's Jean-Claude Juncker will lead for the **next five years**. Even though some MEPs spoke against its form and programme, a different result than approval was not expected. Thus Věra Jourová, officially the former Minister for Regional Development and Vice President of the ANO party, became the Czech Republic's **first ever female Commissioner**.

In the end, **423 MEPs** from the European People's Party (EPP), the Social Democrats (S&D) and Liberals (ALDE) raised their hands for the form and programme of the next European Commission. **209 MEPs** stood in opposition, claiming to be Greens and extreme left groups, including Communists and Eurosceptics. According to information from the Brussels EurActiv editor, the Spanish Socialists also expressed a "no" regarding the Juncker team. Members belonging to the group of European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR), which also includes the Czech Civic Democrats, abstained from the vote.

Just before the vote on the fate of the new Commission, its President **Juncker made some changes** in the distribution of portfolios. Since MEPs disagreed with the Hungarian candidate Tibor Navracsics overseeing culture, youth and citizenship in addition to education, Juncker assigned this agenda to the Greek Commissioner for migration Dmitrisi Avramopoulosovi. On the contrary, he added sport to the Hungarian's portfolio. Juncker also decided to return the issue of drugs to the domain of the Commissioner for Health Vytenis Andriukaitise. Space, which was initially assigned to the transport portfolio (Violeta Bulc) will in the end be managed by the Pole Elżbieta Bieńkowska.

The new Commission will take office in early November. More information on the new composition of the European Commission can be found in the main topic of our EU News Monthly Journal on page 8.

http://ec.europa.eu/about/juncker-commission/

Vera Jourová wants to introduce quotas by 2015 at the latest

As the next Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, Vera Jourová wants the directive which introduces a higher proportion of women in the management of companies to be in force by 2015 at the latest. She stated this in response to questions by the committees of the European Parliament at her grilling. The directive was introduced in 2012 by the former

Commissioner Viviane Reding and its aim is to achieve a 40% proportion of the so far less represented gender among non-executive board members.

The Czech candidate for EU Commissioner emphasized while handing over the text, that all the main political groups in the European Parliament agree upon the current form of norms and promised to persuade member states to also support the position on quotas advocated by the European Commission.

Jourová herself previously had an ambiguous position on quotas and did not support them openly. After familiarizing herself with all the facts and statistics in preparation for the hearing in the European Parliament she subsequently modified her opinion.

http://ephearings2014.eu/post/98902665396/vera-jourova-justice-consumers-and-gender-equality

BUDGET

The United Kingdom and the Netherlands have to send more money to the EU budget

The British anti-EU party the UKIP could not have wished for a better theme for the upcoming by-elections. The **UK and the Netherlands** must contribute an additional **3 billion euros** to the EU budget by the beginning of December. These two countries have improved their economic performance since the calculation of contributions to the EU budget and thus should contribute more. Germany and France, on the contrary, due to deteriorating economic performance should get part of their contributions back.

The UK should pay **2.1 billion euros**. That is almost one-fifth of its annual contribution to the EU coffers. At the same time, the British Prime Minister David Cameron himself had expressed concern about the economies of other EU countries even before the start of the summit. The request for an additional funding contribution, of course, aroused indignation among British Eurosceptics and the tabloid press, who like to emphasize controversial aspects of European integration.

If the radically right-wing UKIP wins, this would create even more pressure on the Prime Minister to toughen anti-European rhetoric. Next year in fact parliamentary elections will be held in the UK. David Cameron promised that in case of victory he will call a **2017 referendum** on the UK remaining in the EU.

http://www.vlada.cz/cz/media-centrum/aktualne/summit-eu-jednal-o-dodatecnem-rozpoctu--cr-podporuje-dodrzovani-pravidel-123829/

TAXATION AND CUSTOMS UNION

EU countries lost € 177 billion in VAT

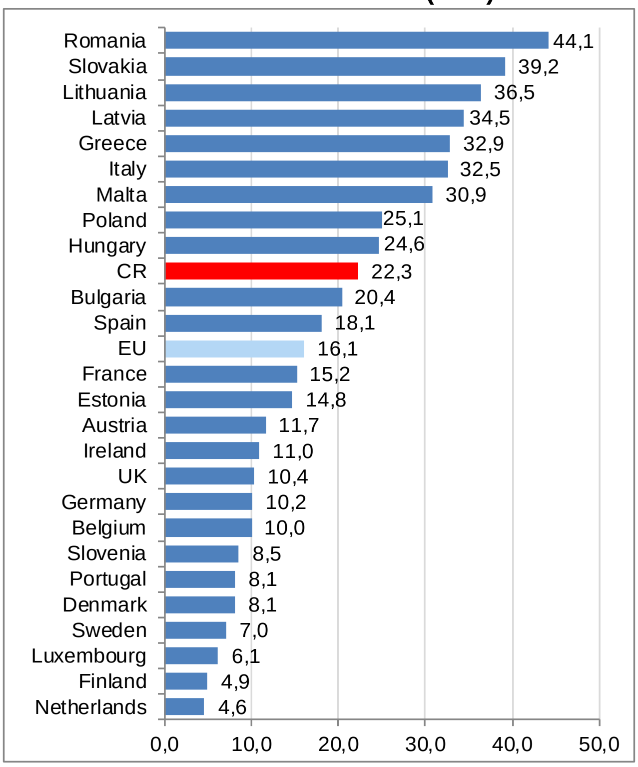
A study by the Centre for Social and Economic Research, which was published by the European Commission last week reveals that the collection of value added tax in many member states is **not effective** at all. In 2012 EU member states lost about **177 billion euros** in uncollected VAT.

Italy lost the most money. It failed to claim a third of the estimated VAT and therefore **lost about 46 billion euros**. Proportionally the most tax escaped financial officials in **Romania**, where they did not collect **44% of VAT**, which should have been claimed two years before. Conversely the Netherlands fared the best with 5%.

The selected VAT does not consist only of evaded taxes. Bankruptcies, defaults, and statistical errors are also reflected in it. The EU's executive body proposed **harmonization of tax returns** in member states to facilitate cross border business. According to the Commission's plan to support the countries of the Union, it has until **2015** to complete the **simplification of the VAT system** in the individual member states.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-1187_en.htm

Uncollected VAT in the EU in 2012 (in %)



Source: European Commission; data for Cyprus and Croatia are not available

European presidents and prime ministers succeeded in agreeing on new EU climate and energy targets on October 23 in Brussels. Environmental organizations and companies focusing on green technologies consider these targets too low however. - More expensive allowances will bring the Czech Republic more money. - Unspent resources from EU funds may return to the Czech Republic as an investment.

ENVIRONMENT

The new EU climate and energy targets

After a long night of negotiations on October 23 in Brussels, European presidents and prime ministers succeeded in agreeing on new EU climate and energy targets that the EU will have to meet in the next decade.

One can talk about a **large compromise** which may please newer member states most. The climate and energy targets will in fact not restrict the right of countries to their own energy mix. Less developed countries will receive additional funding in addition to modernization of the energy sector.

The final agreement includes **all four proposed targets**:

- reducing CO2 emissions (40%) compared to 1990
- increasing the share of renewable energy (27% throughout Europe)
- increasing energy efficiency (indicative target of 27%, following a review in 2020 this may increase to 30%)
- strengthening the interconnection of transmission networks (10% with a view to 15%)

Thus next year the new European Commission of Jean-Claude Juncker will be able to propose concrete regulations which the member states together with the European Parliament will **approve and adopt** into their national legislation.

Environmental organizations and companies focused on green technologies, however, are not hiding their disappointment – according to them the targets are too low. Furthermore only the **emissions reduction target is binding** for member states.

The resulting agreement is essentially a compromise between the different positions of **two blocks** - countries which called for higher commitments, and countries which called for a more cautious approach. Primarily Central European countries including the Czech Republic held this position.

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/2030/index_en.htm

More expensive allowances will bring the Czech Republic more money

The Czech Republic agreed to the EU climate targets on the condition that it obtains additional financial compensation. The amount of money that can be obtained depends on the price of emission allowances. The price of allowances will also depend on the amount of financial compensation which Central European countries negotiated at the European summit. In the next decade the amount of allowances that the Czech Republic gets will increase. This will help the country to fulfil the climate and energy targets. From 2021-2030 according to estimates, the Czech Republic will obtain about 50 to 70 billion Czech crowns in compensation.

http://www.euractiv.cz/energeticka-ucinnost/clanek/drazsi-povolenky-prinesou-cesku-vice-penez-system-emisniho-obchodovani-ale-stale-nefunguje-012256

REGIONAL POLICY

Unspent resources from EU funds may return as an investment

Although Europe believes that the worst is over for its economy after the financial and debt crisis, some concerns remain. The economies of member states are not growing as quickly as many would have wished and the EU is suffering from **unemployment** (especially among young people) and inadequate structural reforms.

Because of this, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, whose team of Commissioners was approved by the European Parliament, promised a financial injection in the amount of **300 billion euros** to support job creation, growth and competitiveness.

Details of the investment package will be available by the next European Council summit, which will take place in December. According to the Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka, part of this could even be money from European funds that member states will not manage to utilize in the coming year. In the case of the Czech Republic, according to data from the Ministry for Regional Development, this could be up to about **60 billion** Czech crowns.

After the Brussels summit, Prime Minister Sobotka said that in November the Czech Repubilic will still try to negotiate the best possible conditions with the European Union to ensure that the amount of unused money is reduced as much as possible.

Simultaneously the Juncker Commission will also conduct negotiations about whether any unspent funds could return to national economies through the **new investment package**. Essentially it is not yet clear from where the head of the Commission wants to take the resources.

http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?ref=I094561&sitelang=en

The European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic contributes to the EU News Monthly Journal in the "Commission's column" section. November's contribution addresses the topic of energy and climate. It focuses specifically on the results of the European Council talks from 23 to 24 October, when the presidents and prime ministers of the 28 member states of the European Union discussed the new energy and climate targets which form the plan to 2030.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE: WHAT WILL THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECISION BRING?

On Thursday 23 October, the presidents and prime ministers of the 28 member states of the EU discussed the long term vision for energy and climate policy long into the night. A strong will to find a common understanding and bring seemingly distant national positions closer was evident however.

This was successful. The outcome sets the plan to 2030 and reflects the viewpoint of the European leaders within the geopolitical and historical context of Europe.

What was agreed and what is the European plan?

Since 1990, Europe has succeeded in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 18%. The air is cleaner and thanks to advances in technology to help the environment many new jobs have been created. There is therefore no reason not to continue this trend.

The first pillar of the plan is therefore to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030. The system is based on the trading of allowances that polluters must buy until they introduce clean technologies. Some industry sectors are however energy intensive and for example in Central Europe significantly contribute to countries' economies.

In these sectors a gradual transition to cleaner technologies is guaranteed – they are either exempted from the requirement of allowance trading for a certain period or receive allowances free of charge. Leaders agreed that this system will continue after 2020.

The second pillar of the plan is to increase the share of renewable energy by 2030 to at least 27% of total energy consumption. Unlike in the past, however, this target will be binding only at the European Union level and not at the level of each state. Thus this better suits countries like the Czech Republic, which has natural limitations in the use of renewable energy sources (wind, water, sun). This allows countries such as the Nordic ones, which for the past 30 years have made great progress, in turn to move on to national targets beyond 27%. The EU average should thus reach the 27% share. Fulflling the targets will not be left only to each member state however. Similarly to the way the EU countries coordinate their economic policies among themselves in a process called the European Semester, the nations will harmonize climate and energy policy and the fulfillment of individual targets among themselves and monitor each other,

The third pillar is to increase energy efficiency by 27%, again by 2030. Saving energy reduces the costs of manufacturing processes and private households. An overall reduction in energy consumption thus reduces our dependence on a large number of resources that are often imported in abundant quantities from very unstable regions such as the Middle East or Russia.

Overall the EU climate and energy plan will have a major impact on reducing Europe's dependence on imported energy resources. However in order to also strengthen solidarity within the EU and to be able to supply power to EU countries any time there is a power supply problem, as happened for example in Slovakia and Bulgaria during the gas crisis of 2009, we will have to continue interconnecting the transmission networks and integrating the energy market. This particularly applies to the Baltic states and Finland on one hand and the Iberian peninsula on the other. The plan therefore anticipates increased investment in strategic energy networks.

The consequences of the EU Climate and Energy Plan

In conclusion there are still **two** very important **geopolitical consequences** of the new EU energy and climate plan. First, this decision clearly tells the EU's global partners that it is the **global leader** in the fight against climate change and that it is committed to reaching an ambitious agreement at the 2015 winter meeting in Paris, when a successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol will be decided.

And second, by setting clear rules and regulations for the European energy market for the next 16 years and more the EU has shown global investors that its markets and **energy prices will be predictable** in the long term. And in the current period after the economic and financial crisis this is good news for Europeans and European companies.

Our "Information Service" section outlines upcoming sessions of EU decision-making bodies accompanied by other significant events such as international summits with super powers. Often agendas for negotiations by these important bodies are not ready until a few days before the actual meetings so they can be as up-to-date as possible.

Agendas can be found at: www.europa.eu; http://italia2014.eu/it/

Meeting of the key EU institutions

6 November 2014 - Eurogroup	**Brussels, Belgium**
7 November 2014 - Economic and Financial Affairs Council	**Brussels, Belgium**
10 - 11 November 2014 - Agriculture and Fisheries Council	**Brussels, Belgium**
12 - 13 November 2014 - European Parliament Plenary Session	**Brussels, Belgium**
14 November 2014 - Economic and Financial Affairs Council	**Brussels, Belgium**
15 - 16 November 2014 - The G20 Leaders' Summit	**Brisbane, Australia**
17 - 18 November 2014 - Foreign Affairs Council	**Brussels, Belgium**
18 - 19 November 2014 - General Affairs Council	**Brussels, Belgium**
21 November 2014 - Foreign Affairs Council	**Brussels, Belgium**
24 - 27 November 2014 - European Parliament Plenary Session	**Strasbourg, France**
25 November 2014 - Education, Youth, Culture & Sport Council	**Brussels, Belgium**
27 November 2014 - Transport, Telecommunications & Energy Council	**Brussels, Belgium**
1 December 2014 - European Council	**Brussels, Belgium**

Source: www.europa.eu, http://italia2014.eu/it, access as of 31h October 2014

The contribution to the November "Microscope" section is dedicated this time to the disbursement of funds in the new 2014-2020 programming period. The analysis is based on a survey of the Association of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Crafts of the Czech Republic (AMSP), about municipalities‘ and small and medium-sized enterprises‘ past experiences, attitudes and views on the new funding period. You will find out in the next lines to what extent and under which operational programmes businesses and municipalities plan to apply for funding.

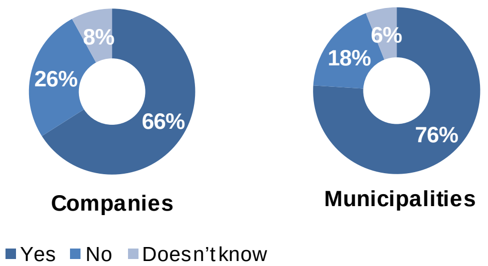
WILL WE UTILIZE EU FUNDS BETTER IN 2014-2020?

The utilization of funds from the new funding period is approaching. In this context, the Association of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and Crafts of the Czech Republic (AMSP) conducted a survey about municipalities‘ and small and medium-sized enterprises‘ past experiences, attitudes and views on the new programming period.

The Czech Republic has to catch up in utilizing EU funds because billions of unused Czech crowns from previous years put us at the tail end among the European member states.For the 2014-2020, the total financial allocation for the Czech Republic is almost 24 billion euro, so it is really about what will happen with these funds.

Of the survey respondents (100 municipalities and 400 enterprises) 2/3 of the companies are planning to apply for another grant in the case of the municipalities the figure is 76%.

Are you planning to apply for another grant from the EU in the upcoming programming period?

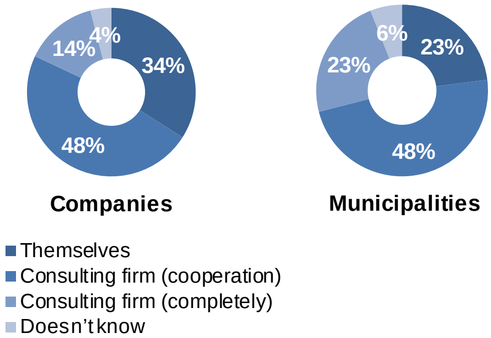


The question about weakneses in the provision of subsidies from the European Union may even provide a specific reason for the amount of negative answers to the previous question. It is certainly not surprising that the main weakness was administrative requirements.

In fact approximately 90% (!) of subsidy recipients indicated this as the weakest aspect. Regarding other weaknesses, excessive controls and fragmentation of information sources, considered a problem particularly in municipalities, were often mentioned.

The survey reveals that for the current programming period, companies and municipalities will use the services of consulting firms. Firms will rely on the knowledge and experience of consulting firms in grant applications (and due to the nature of some subsidies) in one third of the cases, which is about 11 percentage points more than municipalities.

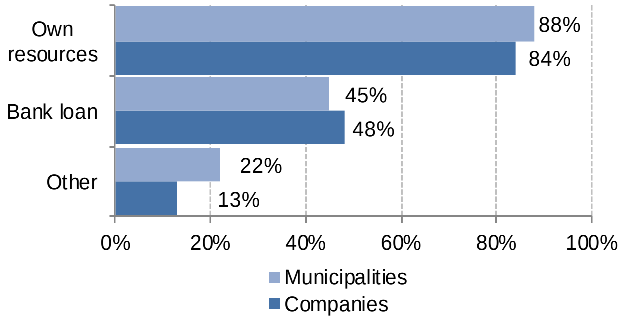
How do you plan to prepare a grant application?



Positive experiences from previous years are probably also reflected in the selection of the same consulting firm for the grants for the new period (2/3 of municipalities and 72% of companies are going to use the same company).

One of the weaknesses in the provision of subsidies was fragmentation of information. Which resources would respondents therefore use if they are interested in drawing subsidies? 90% would obtain information primarily from the websites of ministries and agencies, and less from the websites of banks (about 6%).

How would you probably finance a project which you would receive a grant for in the future?



The majority of businesses and municipalities would mainly use their own resources; just under half would also approach banks for a loan however. In cases when respondents will receive grants in the future and use loan financing, this could cover up to ¾ of the given project, thus this opens up interesting opportunities for banks, since in the past roughly a quarter of municipalities used a loan from a bank and in the future up to twice as many may use them.

Tomáš Kozelský, EU Office Česká spořitelna

Our main topic in the November Monthly of EU News is the new composition of the European Commission, which began its activities on 1 November 2014 under the leadership of Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg. Juncker's team's main priorities include establishing and maintaining growth, increasing investments and improving the situation on the labour market. The Czech Republic is represented by Věra Jourová, who serves as the Commissioner for Justice, Consumer Protection and Gender Equality.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW EUROPEAN COMMISSION

INTRODUCTION

The new European Commission began its activities on 1 November under the leadership of Luxembourg's former Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker. After 10 years, Juncker has replaced José Manuel Barroso, who served two terms as European Commission chairman from 2004 to 2009 and 2010 to 2014 and mainly had to deal with the economic crisis in 2008, followed by problems experienced by banks in the Eurozone.

The European Parliament approved the new European Commission on 22 October 2014. Juncker's new team received support from 423 European Parliament members, while 209 lawmakers opposed the nominated commissioners, and 67 abstained from the vote. The new European Commission and its 28 members now awaits a five-year term, which should end in 2019.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S PRIORITIES

Although the worst of the economic crisis is probably already behind us, the new European Commission will not have it easy. A lot of important political and macroeconomic tasks await it.

Juncker's team's main priorities include establishing and maintaining growth, increasing investments (mainly in the areas of energy and transport infrastructure, investments into education, research and investments into projects to help young people on the labour market and support for them) and related improvement of the situation on the labour market. Job creation should be sustainable and mainly without additional costs and debts arising.

Another tasks awaiting the European Commission is creation of a unified digital market, which will support both job creation and a society based on the knowledge economy and other market opportunities.

Another very important task awaits the European Commission.

It is the reduction of energy dependency on imports of fuels and natural gas. The path to energy independence is expected to be helped by the creation of a European energy union, which will involve sharing of resources, connection of networks, etc.

The EU is also expected in the foreseeable future to become the world leader in renewable energy and thereby reduce its dependence on imports as well as help reduce negative impacts on the environment.

NEWS AND CHANGES IN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

However, the road to starting its activities and the European Parliament's prior blessing of it has not been entirely easy for the European Commission. In the case of candidates proposed for European Commissioner positions, public hearings and several hours of defence of candidates for commissioner posts before the European Parliament have been required.

The fact that this is not merely a formality is evidenced by, for example, the change of post in the case of a Slovenian candidate for commissioner, former Prime Minister Alenka Bratušek. She withdrew her candidacy following an unsuccessful hearing before European Parliament members, where she did not defend her position as Commission Deputy Chairwoman for Energy Union. Since she did not surviving the grilling questioning, it became necessary to find a replacement for her. That replacement is Violeta Bulc, a Slovenian businesswoman and politician and Slovenia's minister without portfolio. However, Bulc did not win the unoccupied position of commissioner for the energy union. That position was won by Slovak politician Maroš Šefčovič, who is not new in the Commission (in Barroso's previous teams, he was deputy chairman for institutional relations and administration, and prior to that he served as commissioner for education, professional preparation, culture and youth). The vacated transport position, which Maroš Šefčovič was originally expected to hold, has been occupied by Slovenian politician Violeta Bulc.

Structure of the European Commission


Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President


Jean-Claude Juncker
President


Federica Mogherini
Vice-President


Kristalina Georgieva
Vice-President


Andrus Ansip
Vice-President


Valdis Dombrovskis
Vice-President


Jyrki Katainen
Vice-President


Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President


Günther Oettinger


Johannes Hahn


Violeta Bulc


Cecilia Malmström


Neven Mimica


Miguel Arias Cañete


Karmenu Vella


Vytenis Andriukaitis


Dimitris Avramopoulos


Marianne Thyssen


Pierre Moscovici


Christos Stylianides


Phil Hogan


Jonathan Hill


Elżbieta Bieńkowska


Věra Jourová


Tibor Navracsics


Corina Creţu


Margrethe Vestager


Carlos Moedas

Jean-Claude Juncker (age 59)
Luxembourg
President
A politician and attorney, who has served as prime minister and minister of finance in Luxembourg

Maroš Šefčovič (age 48)
Slovakia
Energy Union
A former ambassador, who is a commissioner responsible for institutional relations and administration, education, expert preparation, culture and youth

Frans Timmermans (age 53)
Dutch
Better Regulation, Inter-institutional Relations, the Rule of Law, the Charter of Fundamental Rights
The former Dutch minister of foreign affairs

Günther Oettinger (age 61)
Germany
Digital Economy & Society
A German politician and former federal chancellor, deputy chairman in the previous Commission responsible for energy

Federica Mogherini (age 41)
Italy
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Policy & Security
The Italian minister of foreign affairs

Johannes Hahn (age 56)
Austria
European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations
A former minister for science and research, who was responsible for regional policy in Barroso's Commission

Kristalina Georgieva (age 61)
Bulgaria
Budget & Human Resources
A female politician and commissioner for international cooperation and humanitarian assistance in Barroso's Commission

Violeta Bulc (age 50)
Slovenia
Transport
A Slovenian businesswoman and minister without portfolio with a focus on development and strategic projects

Andrus Ansip (age 58)
Estonia
Digital Single Market
An Estonian politician and former prime minister

Cecilia Malmström (age 46)
Sweden
Trade
A former minister for European affairs; in the previous two European Commissions she was responsible for internal affairs

Valdis Dombrovskis (age 43)
Latvia
The Euro & Social Dialogue
A Latvian politician, who has held the positions of minister of finance, prime minister and member of the European parliament

Neven Mimica (age 61)
Croatia
International Cooperation & Development
A Croatian former minister and deputy prime minister (responsible for internal, foreign and European policy); commissioner for consumer protection

Jyrki Katainen (age 43)
Finland
Jobs, Growth, Investment & Competitiveness
A Finnish former prime minister; commissioner for economic and monetary union and the euro

Miguel Arias Cañete (age 64)
Spain
Climate Action & Energy
A Spanish politician and former minister of agriculture and environment

Karmenu Vella (age 64)
Malta
Environment, Maritime Affairs & Fisheries
A Maltese politician and former minister for tourism

Jonathan Hill (age 54)
United Kingdom
Financial Stability, Financial Services &Capital Markets Union
A British politician, the chairman of the House of Lords

Vytenis Andriukaitis (age 63)
Lithuania
Health & Food Safety
A Lithuanian politician and cardiac surgeon, who is a former minister of health

Elżbieta Bieńkowska (age 50)
Poland
Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship & SMEs
The former minister for regional development, infrastructure and development

Dimitris Avramopoulos (age 61)
Greece
Migration, Home Affairs & Citizenship
A Greek politician, diplomat and minister of defence

Věra Jourová (age 50)
Czech Republic
Justice, Consumers& Gender Equality
A Czech female politician, the former minister for regional development

Marianne Thyssen (age 58)
Belgium
Employment, Social Affairs, Skills & Labour Mobility
A Belgian female politician and member of the European Parliament

Tibor Navracsics (age 48)
Hungary
Education, Culture, Youth & Sport
A Hungarian politician and attorney, the former minister of justice, who later served as minister of foreign affairs and trade

Pierre Moscovici (age 57)
France
Economic & Financial Affairs, Taxation & Customs
A former minister for European affairs and finance; a former member of the European Parliament

Corina Creţu (age 47)
Romania
Regional Policy
A Romanian female politician and member of the European Parliament

Christos Stylianides (age 56)
Cyprus
Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management
A politician and member of the European Parliament

Margrethe Vestager (age 46)
Denmark
Competition
A female former minister of education and religious affairs, deputy prime minister and minister of economics and interior

Phil Hogan (age 54)
Ireland
Agriculture & Rural Development
An Irish politician and minister for the environment, communities and local government

Carlos Moedas (age 44)
Portugal
Research, Science& Innovation
A Portuguese politician, banker and state secretary

Even Czech candidate Věra Jourová did not avoid certain complications and went through "grilling" twice. However, that did not change anything, and the former Czech minister for Regional Development will be responsible for the newly created strong portfolio of consumer policy. Consumer policy will no longer be divided among various portfolios, but will have its own prioritised position within the portfolio of the commissioner for justice, consumer protection and gender equality.

However, the changes did not occur only at a personnel level, but compared to the previous Commission there have been other changes and even completely new situations in certain parts of the Commission. The first deputy chairman, Frans Timmermans, will be responsible for tasks including improving legal regulation. The first deputy chairman will serve in all of the Commission's activities as a supervisor over compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU and the rule of law.

A new portfolio has been created for the internal market, industry, business and small and medium-sized enterprises, which will fall under the responsibilities of Polish politician Elžbieta Bieńkowska. Small and mid-sized enterprises are also being specifically mentioned for the first time. Something else new is the portfolio for economic and financial matters, taxes and the customs union (which will be headed by Pierre Moscovici), which will ensure that tax and customs union policy becomes an integral part of the stable and real economic and monetary union and contributes to smooth function of all of the EU's system for management of economic matters.

The new position of special commissioner for migration will be held by Dimitris Avramopoulos, in order to prioritise new migration policy, which will focus thoroughly on dealing with illegal migration and on ensuring that Europe becomes an attractive destination for highly talented people.

These changes include combination of the portfolios of environment, maritime affairs and fisheries, responsibility for which has been assigned to Maltese politician Karmenu Vella. The same applies to climate and energy policy, which is overseen by Spanish politician Miguel Arias Cañete. Boosting the share of energy from renewable resources is not only a matter that pertains to climate change policy. It is also about the imperative of industrial policy, if Europe wants to continue to have affordable energy in the mid-term horizon. The new commissioner for financial stability, financial services and the capital markets union is British former House of Lords chairman Jonathan Hill. This portfolio has expert knowledge and responsibilities concentrated in one place, the newly created directorate.

A Hungarian commissioner will oversee the portfolio for education, culture, youth and sport. He was originally expected to be responsible for citizenship as well, but that position has been given to Greek commissioner Dmitris Avramopoulosov (migration, internal affairs and citizenship).

The new Commission under the leadership of chairman Jean-Claude Juncker has seven deputy chairpersons, and each of them is responsible for besides their portfolio also one project team, which is comprised of several commissioners. The deputy chairpersons will direct and coordinate these teams (and may even change them based on needs, whether project-related or staffing-related).

These involve the following areas: energy union with progressive policy in the area of climate focused on future challenges, jobs, growth, investment and competitiveness, a single digital market and a deepened and more just economic and monetary union.

CONCLUSION

And some statistics in conclusion. The new Commission has 28 members, and the average age is 53.4 years old. The youngest member is Federica Mogherini (41), and the oldest is Miguel Arias Cañete (64). The number of women is the same as in Barroso's previous Commission: 9 (including Věra Jourová, who has become the first female Czech commissioner). Although the Commission began its activities only a couple of days ago, it is a team with a lot of experience in European politics. It includes former prime ministers, deputy prime ministers, commissioners from Barroso's previous teams and MEPs.

The team's professional qualifications and experience are indisputable. They will not face the problems that the previous Commission had to tackle during the global economic crisis. However, numerous other tasks await them, both those that they have selected as their priorities and others, such as restoration of trust in the EU both institutionally and economically and migration policy as well as foreign policy in general.

The upcoming months and years will prove whether they can achieve their set priorities and individual objectives.

The Guide to Doing Business section is part of the advisory programme "Foreign Business Guide", which the EU Office has offered since the beginning of this year. Within the program, we provide our clients from among small and medium-sized businesses with information about how to expand abroad successfully and what business environment awaits them there. You can find more information about the programme here: www.csas.cz/eu. In this issue we present Denmark.

DENMARK

Official name	The Kingdom of Denmark
Population	5 569 077 (2014)
Area	43 094 km^2
Currency	DKK (Danish Krone)
Official language	Danish

Source: Eurostat

Denmark is the smallest of the Scandinavian countries and borders Germany, Poland and Sweden. The Danish Kingdom consists of Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Denmark itself, which is further divided into five regions.

The country is a constitutional monarchy with a unicameral parliament whose members are elected for 4-year terms. Social Democratic politician Helle Thorning-Schmidt has served as prime minister since 2011. Queen Marketa II has reigned as head of state since 1972.

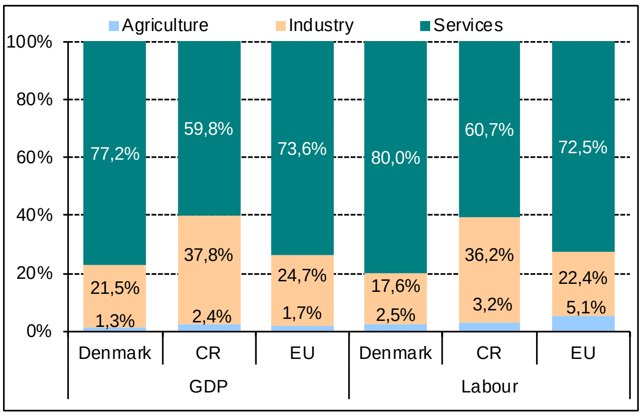
Structure of economy and foreign trade

Mineral oils, both raw and processed, are Denmark's most exported commodity and together make up 9% of the country's exports. The second most exported commodity is frozen pork, which makes up 3.1% of Denmark's exports.

The commodities most imported to Denmark are processed mineral oils (6.9%) and raw mineral oils (3.7%). They are followed by automobiles, which make up 3.2% of imports.

Denmark's largest export partners are Germany (15.3%), Sweden (11.7%) and the UK (8.1%). The country mostly imports from Germany (20.5%), Sweden (12.3%) and the Netherlands (7.4%).

Sectors of the National Economy - Denmark (CR and EU)



Source: Eurostat, data as of 2013

Macroeconomic outlook

Following the economic decline in 2012, when GDP fell by 0.4%, the Danish economy registered slight growth by 0.4% of GDP in the following year. The Commission expects the growth trend to be confirmed in the subsequent period as well and predicts that the growth pace will accelerate to 1.5% in 2014 and then 1.9% in 2015. Its driver is likely to be domestic demand, to which the Commission expects net exports to be added in 2014. Households' consumption is expected to increase as the country's population gradually eliminate debt.

The country's public finances ended before the crisis with a budget surplus, but since 2009 the balances have ranged from -4% to 0% of GDP. As far as public debt is concerned, following its rise from 2009 to 2011, it is expected to stabilise at below 45% in relation to GDP. The 0.5% inflation level in 2013 reflected the decline in the prices of processing products and energy.

Basic indicators (in %)	2012	2013	2014^e	2015^e
GDP growth	-0,4	0,4	1,5	1,9
Unemployment level	7,5	7,0	6,9	6,7
Inflation	2,4	0,5	1,0	1,6
Current account saldo	6,0	7,3	6,9	6,8
Public debt	45,4	44,5	43,5	44,9

Source: European Commission; ^{e} - estimate

Labor market

Denmark's unemployment level has been declining over the long term, and the Commission expects the country's average unemployment level to fall to 6.9% during 2014. The most recent available data indicate a 6.7% unemployment level, which is more than 3% below the EU average.

Basic indicators of labor market		
Unemployment level (August 2014)	6,7 %	
Labor productivity to ø EU (2013)	128,0 %	
Minimum monthly wage (2014)	not stipulated	
Ø monthly labor costs (2013)	**Denmark**	**CR**
Manufacturing	5 182 €	1 480 €
Wholesale and retail trade	4 756 €	1 512 €
Inf. and communic. activities	6 888 €	2 848 €
Construction	4 706 €	1 467 €

Source: Eurostat

Denmark's high work productivity level, 128% of the EU average, places the country in fourth place among EU member states. The cost of labour in Denmark is much higher than in the Czech Republic. The average labour costs in individual sectors are approximately 3.5 times higher than in the Czech Republic.

Labor law basics

An employment contract is usually in writing. An employment contract can be for a definite or indefinite period. The work period has been set at 37 hours per week, but it must not exceed 48 hours, including overtime. Overtime is compensated for within wages, or substitute leave can be taken as compensation. Each employee is entitled to five weeks of vacation.

Commercial law basics

According to the World Bank, Denmark has the best business environment in the EU and the fourth best in the world. Founding a limited liability company in Denmark can take approximately 5 days and costs DKK 670. Individuals and legal entities can both establish companies, and at least 25% of the capital must be paid when the company is founded.

While the minimum capital for founding a limited liability company in Denmark is 80 000 DKK for a joint-stock company it is more than six times that amount.

Form of Company	Minimum Capital
European Company - SE	120 000 EUR
Limited Liability Company	80 000 DKK
Joint Stock Company	500 000 DKK

Source: Ministry of Economy

Main taxes and additional labor costs

Denmark's residents are subject to taxation of their worldwide income, while non-residents are taxed only for income earned in Denmark. The government has decided to reduce corporate income tax rates gradually (as of January 2014 the rate was reduced from 25% to 24.5%, and in 2015 and 2016 respectively it is expected to be reduced first to 23.5% and then to 22%).

Dividends may be relieved of tax obligations of certain conditions are fulfilled, and other dividends are taxed progressively from 27% to 42%. The individual income tax rate is progressive and consists of six tax bases. There is only one basic VAT rate in Denmark, which is 25%. Insurance, financial services, medicine and certain other services are exempt from VAT.

Employees and self-employed entrepreneurs pay 8% of their wages for social security. Contributions to social security are voluntary for employers.

Tax/payment	Rate
Corporate Tax	24,5 %
Individual Income Tax	až 55,6 %
Social insurance (employee)	8%
Social insurance (employer)	voluntary
VAT (basic /lower)	25 %

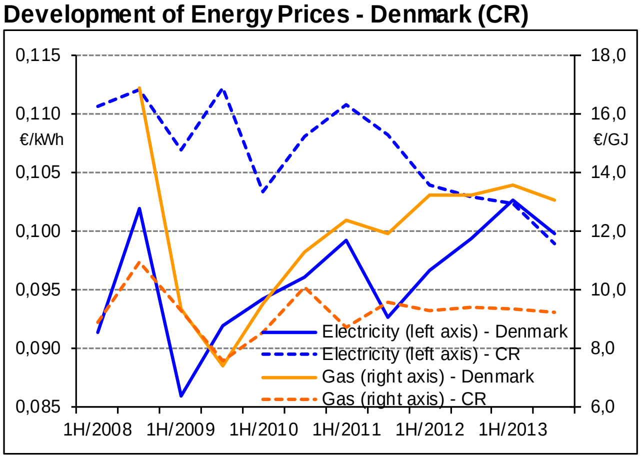
Source: Ministry of Finance

Energy

Electricity prices for large customers in Denmark with slight fluctuations increased until the first half of 2013, when it exceeded 10 euro cents per kilowatt hour. That was followed by a sharp decline by just under 20%, and in the first half of 2014 Danish electricity cost 8.4 euro cents per kilowatt hour.

The cost of Danish natural gas is more volatile compared to the situation in the Czech Republic. In 2009, it was even cheaper (EUR 6.85 per GJ), but since then it has been rising at an enormous pace and in 2013 already cost EUR 12.62 per GJ. At the beginning of 2014, the price of natural gas for large customers dropped again, this time by 15%, and its market value reached EUR 10.37 per GJ.

Development of Energy Prices - Denmark (CR)



Source: Eurostat, tariffs for wholesales excluding VAT

Investment incentives

Denmark offers incentives for research and development for companies from all sectors. Co-financing is possible in the following sectors: biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, medicines, study of living organisms, renewable resources for energy, ICT, agriculture and transport.

In the 2014-2020 programme period, a financial tool of the EU, which is focused closely on the environment and climate change, is the LIFE programme. Financial resources for the LIFE programme are part of the multi-year financial framework for 2014-2020, specifically phase 2. Sustainable growth: natural resources. The programme replaces its predecessors, such as the LIFE+ programme, intended for the 2007-2013 programme period. You can read more about the LIFE programme in other parts of the November „Dating the MFF“ section.

LIFE PROGRAMME

The LIFE programme is the **only financial instrument** of the EU focused exclusively on co-financing projects related to environmental protection and the climate. The main purpose of the programme is to support implementation of EU legislation and policy regarding the environment, and it is also intended to promote new solutions to environmental problems.

Programme history

The basis for the creation of the LIFE programme was the adoption of the Single European Act in 1986 and the subsequent adoption of the fifth action programme for the environment in 1993. These acts contributed to reform of the European system for protection of natural habitats, and the LIFE programme has become the only financial instrument in this area. However, the structure of the programme has changed several times over the years.

From **1992 to 1995** it consisted of the **LIFE I** programme, which consisted of **five parts**:

- Support for sustainable development and environmental quality;
- Protection of natural stations and nature;
- Administrative structures and services in the environmental area;
- Education, expert preparation and information;
- Activities outside of the EU.

From **1995 to 1999** it consisted of the **LIFE II** programme, which was divided into a total of **three categories**:

- LIFE-nature;
- LIFE-environment;
- LIFE-third countries.

The **third phase** of the programme, called **LIFE III**, was planned for five years for the period from **1999 to 2004**. In 2004 in connection with Regulation (EC) No. 1682/2004 the programme was extended by two years (2005 and 2006).

In the previous programme period of 2007 to 2013, it consisted of the LIFE+ programme with a budget of 2.14 billion euros and a total of **three parts**:

- LIFE+ Nature and Biological Diversity;
- LIFE+ Policy and Administration in the Environmental Area;
- LIFE+ Information and Communication.

During these four phases (1992-2013), the programme co-financed approximately **4,171 projects**, and **3.4 billion euros** was contributed from it for environmental protection.

LIFE programme for 2014-2020

During the **2014-2020 period**, the LIFE programme will be implemented in **two multi-year work periods**, which correspond to each other. For the 2014-2017 period, the LIFE multi-year work programme has been adopted by Implementing Decision of the European Commission 2014/203/EU of 19 March 2014.

The LIFE programme consists of **two sub-programmes**:

- **Sub-programme for environment**: Environment and effective use of resources; Nature and Biological Diversity; Administration and Information in the Environmental Area.
- **Sub-programme for climate**: Easing the effects of climate change; Adapting to climate change; Administration and information related to climate change.

The specific objectives for individual sub-programmes are defined in Regulation of the European Parliament and Council of the EU No. 1293/2013 of 11 December 2013.

The total budget resources allocated for the LIFE programme **during 2014-2020** will be **3.45 billion euros**, 75% of which will be allocated to the sub-programme for the environment (2.59 billion euros), and 25% of which will be allocated to the sub-programme for climate (0.86 billion euros). Programme is **coordinated by the Commission**, specifically the **DG for the Environment and the DG for Climate Action**. The Commission has transferred the responsibility for implementation of certain parts of the programme to the **Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME)**.

During 2014-2020, financing will also be provided via **two pilot financial instruments**. They are the **Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF)** and the **Private Financing for Energy Efficiency Instrument (PF4EE)**, which can be used to obtain lines of credit or guarantees for bank lines of credit directly for projects. Both of these instruments are managed by the European Investment Bank.

Financing of the projects within the LIFE programme is carried out through grants, public contracts and/or contributions to financial instruments. The applications are submitted directly to the European Commission.

The "Statistical Window" in a tabular form shows important macroeconomic indicators from all member states and the EU as a whole. It includes economic performance indicators (per capita GDP as compared to the EU average, GDP growth), external economic stability indicators (current account to GDP), fiscal stability indicators (public budget to GDP, public debt to GDP) and price level to ø EU. The source of the data is Eurostat and EC.

Key macroeconomic indicators

	GDP growth				GDP per capita (PPS, % of ø EU)				Price level to ø EU			
in %	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013
Belgium	2.3	1.8	-0.1	0.2	120.1	119.6	119.6	119.0	110.2	109.6	108.6	109.3
Germany	4.0	3.3	0.7	0.4	119.1	122.3	122.8	124.0	103.5	102.0	101.1	101.5
Estonia	2.6	9.6	3.9	0.8	63.8	69.0	71.2	72.0	74.8	75.9	76.9	79.9
Ireland	-1.1	2.2	0.2	-0.3	127.9	128.1	128.3	126.0	118.1	118.7	117.0	118.1
Greece	-4.9	-7.1	-7.0	-3.9	88.5	80.9	76.3	75.0	94.5	94.5	92.1	89.5
Spain	-0.2	0.1	-1.6	-1.2	99.0	96.0	95.0	95.0	96.6	96.9	95.0	94.8
France	1.7	2.0	0.0	0.2	108.8	108.8	108.4	108.0	110.1	109.7	108.1	109.1
Italy	1.7	0.4	-2.4	-1.9	102.5	101.3	100.2	98.0	101.2	102.9	102.5	103.2
Cyprus	1.3	0.4	-2.4	-5.4	96.6	93.4	91.3	86.0	88.7	88.7	87.4	86.2
Latvia	-1.3	5.3	5.2	4.1	55.1	59.7	64.1	67.0	70.0	71.2	71.6	71.2
Luxembourg	3.1	1.9	-0.2	2.1	261.7	265.2	262.6	264.0	122.3	123.3	122.1	123.2
Malta	4.1	1.6	0.6	2.4	86.8	85.9	85.7	87.0	77.4	78.4	77.8	79.5
Netherlands	1.5	0.9	-1.2	-0.8	129.6	129.0	127.3	127.0	107.8	108.3	107.6	110.1
Austria	1.8	2.8	0.9	0.4	126.3	128.5	129.6	129.0	105.1	105.7	105.5	106.9
Portugal	1.9	-1.3	-3.2	-1.4	80.1	76.8	75.8	75.0	87.4	87.8	85.9	86.0
Slovenia	1.3	0.7	-2.5	-1.1	84.2	84.2	83.6	83.0	86.1	84.9	83.0	83.3
Slovakia	4.4	3.0	1.8	0.9	74.1	75.2	75.9	76.0	70.3	70.7	70.4	70.6
Finland	3.4	2.8	-1.0	-1.4	114.0	115.5	115.0	112.0	121.7	122.2	121.7	123.5
Bulgaria	0.4	1.8	0.6	0.9	44.1	46.4	47.4	47.0	50.0	48.8	48.3	48.4
CR	2.5	1.8	-1.0	-0.9	80.5	80.9	80.8	80.0	74.6	75.5	72.2	70.6
Denmark	1.4	1.1	-0.4	0.4	127.6	125.1	125.6	125.0	140.4	142.6	140.6	139.6
Croatia	-2.3	-0.2	-1.9	-1.0	60.0	60.4	61.2	61.0	75.2	73.0	70.0	68.5
Lithuania	1.6	6.0	3.7	3.3	61.7	67.2	71.3	74.0	63.6	64.5	63.9	64.6
Hungary	1.1	1.6	-1.7	1.1	65.9	67.0	66.5	67.0	63.0	61.5	60.3	59.7
Poland	3.9	4.5	2.0	1.6	62.8	64.9	66.8	68.0	60.4	58.6	56.7	56.5
Romania	-1.1	2.3	0.6	3.5	50.5	51.1	52.8	54.0	57.4	58.8	55.4	57.5
Sweden	6.6	2.9	0.9	1.5	123.3	124.9	125.9	127.0	119.7	125.7	128.7	129.8
UK	1.7	1.1	0.3	1.7	107.6	104.9	104.7	106.0	107.8	108.6	116.5	113.5
EU	2.0	1.6	-0.4	0.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

	Public budget deficit to GDP				Public debt to GDP ratio				Current account saldo to GDP			
in %	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013
Belgium	-3.8	-3.8	-4.1	-2.6	96.6	99.2	101.1	101.5	2.6	0.5	-0.2	-0.3
Germany	-4.2	-0.8	0.1	0.0	82.5	80.0	81.0	78.4	6.4	6.3	7.0	7.4
Estonia	0.2	1.1	-0.2	-0.2	6.7	6.1	9.8	10.0	3.5	0.3	-2.8	-1.8
Ireland	-30.6	-13.1	-8.2	-7.2	91.2	104.1	117.4	123.7	1.1	1.2	4.4	6.6
Greece	-10.9	-9.6	-8.9	-12.7	148.3	170.3	157.2	175.1	-12.8	-11.7	-4.6	2.4
Spain	-9.6	-9.6	-10.6	-7.1	61.7	70.5	86.0	93.9	-4.4	-4.0	-1.2	0.8
France	-7.0	-5.2	-4.9	-4.3	82.7	86.2	90.6	93.5	-1.9	-2.5	-2.1	-1.9
Italy	-4.5	-3.7	-3.0	-3.0	119.3	120.7	127.0	132.6	-3.5	-3.1	-0.4	0.9
Cyprus	-5.3	-6.3	-6.4	-5.4	61.3	71.5	86.6	111.7	-9.2	-3.5	-7.0	-1.4
Latvia	-8.2	-3.5	-1.3	-1.0	44.5	42.0	40.8	38.1	2.9	-2.2	-2.5	-0.8
Luxembourg	-0.8	0.2	0.0	0.1	19.5	18.7	21.7	23.1	7.7	6.6	5.8	5.2
Malta	-3.5	-2.7	-3.3	-2.8	66.0	68.8	70.8	73.0	-5.3	-1.0	1.1	0.6
Netherlands	-5.1	-4.3	-4.1	-2.5	63.4	65.7	71.3	73.5	5.0	7.4	7.7	7.8
Austria	-4.5	-2.5	-2.6	-1.5	72.5	73.1	74.4	74.5	3.6	1.5	1.8	2.7
Portugal	-9.8	-4.3	-6.4	-4.9	94.0	108.2	124.1	129.0	-10.4	-7.2	-2.2	0.4
Slovenia	-5.9	-6.4	-4.0	-14.7	38.7	47.1	54.4	71.7	-0.2	0.2	3.1	5.3
Slovakia	-7.5	-4.8	-4.5	-2.8	41.0	43.6	52.7	55.4	-3.7	-2.6	1.6	2.5
Finland	-2.5	-0.7	-1.8	-2.1	48.8	49.3	53.6	57.0	1.7	-1.5	-1.4	-0.8
Bulgaria	-3.1	-2.0	-0.8	-1.5	16.2	16.3	18.4	18.9	-0.4	0.1	-0.9	1.9
CR	-4.7	-3.2	-4.2	-1.5	38.4	41.4	46.2	46.0	-5.0	-3.5	-2.6	-1.2
Denmark	-2.5	-1.9	-3.8	-0.8	42.8	46.4	45.4	44.5	5.8	5.9	6.0	7.3
Croatia	-6.4	-7.8	-5.0	-4.9	45.0	52.0	55.9	67.1	-0.9	-0.7	-0.4	0.5
Lithuania	-7.2	-5.5	-3.2	-2.2	37.8	38.3	40.5	39.4	-0.4	-3.9	-1.1	1.3
Hungary	-4.3	4.3	-2.1	-2.2	82.2	82.1	79.8	79.2	0.4	0.6	1.1	3.1
Poland	-7.8	-5.1	-3.9	-4.3	54.9	56.2	55.6	57.0	-4.3	-4.5	-3.4	-1.6
Romania	-6.8	-5.5	-3.0	-2.3	30.5	34.7	38.0	38.4	-4.4	-4.5	-4.4	-1.1
Sweden	0.3	0.2	-0.6	-1.1	39.4	38.6	38.3	40.6	6.9	6.2	6.5	6.6
UK	-10.0	-7.6	-6.1	-5.8	78.4	84.3	89.1	90.6	-2.7	-1.5	-3.8	-4.4
EU	-6.5	-4.4	-3.9	-3.3	80.0	82.9	86.6	89.4	-0.1	0.2	0.9	1.6

Source: Eurostat, EC