



Brussels, 14 September 2018

JUNCKER DELIVERS STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker delivered before the European Parliament his State of the Union speech where he called for the EU to speak and act as one on the global stage and uphold its democratic values. Laying down the Commission's ambitions for the coming twelve months, he announced several proposals relating to online security, migration and border management, anti-money laundering, trade with Africa, and decision-making arrangements in foreign and security policy. Juncker called for swift implementation of the files, warning the Parliament that "there are no guarantees that our allies of yesterday will remain our allies of tomorrow".

PARLIAMENT ADOPTS REVISED POSITION ON DIGITAL COPYRIGHT RULES

After a failed first attempt in June of this year, the European Parliament adopted on Wednesday its revised negotiating position on digital copyright rules. The new rules oblige large internet platforms to pay for the work of artists and journalists they use and urge them to monitor user behaviour to catch copyright infringements. As compared with the position voted down in June, the report adds safeguards to protect small firms and freedom of expression. The final version of the text will now be subject to upcoming trilogue negotiations, which the Austrian Presidency aims to finalise by the end of the year.

HUNGARY SHOULD LOSE EU COUNCIL VOTING RIGHTS, SAY PARLIAMENT

The European Parliament approved plans to trigger a sanctions procedure against Hungary, following accusations of a "clear risk of a serious breach" of EU values. The resolution, drafted by MEP Judith Sargentini (Greens, NL), points to a direct attack on human rights and civil liberties. The decision to invoke the so-called Article 7 was supported by a large majority of MEPs – 448 to 197 – and EU leaders will now have to vote on whether to continue proceedings, for which a four-fifths majority is required. If finally adopted, Hungary would face a temporary loss of European Council voting rights.

PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE VOTE FOR 45% CO2 EMISSIONS CUT FOR CARS AND VANS

The Environment committee (ENVI) in the European Parliament voted to reduce CO2 emissions from cars and vans by 45% by 2030. ENVI adopted Miriam Dalli's (S&D, MT) report by 38 votes to 23, which includes an interim goal of a 20% reduction by 2025 and a stronger sales target for zero and ultra-low emission cars of 40% by 2030. These targets are much higher than the original Commission proposal, which put forward a 30% reduction target for 2030. The higher targets are likely to face opposition from the Council, where several Member States are against stricter rules. The plenary vote on the report is expected for October.

BRITAIN RELEASES LATEST BREXIT NO-DEAL GUIDANCE PAPERS

The UK Government published the latest batch of Brexit guidance papers on what will happen in the event of a 'no-deal' outcome. Topics covered in the 28 papers include type approval for vehicles, mobile roaming, border checks and passports, and safety standards for goods. Further position papers on issues such as aviation and climate change will be published later this month. Meanwhile, the EU is

understood to be discussing giving its Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier a new mandate for talks with the UK which will aim to secure an agreement on a future partnership with the UK by November 2018.

COMING UP NEXT WEEK

- **17-18 September: Informal meeting of energy ministers.** On the agenda: clean energy package; innovation; renewable hydrogen.
- **18 September: General Affairs Council.** On the agenda: Brexit and Article 50 negotiations; MFF 2021-2027; rule of law in Poland.
- **19-20 September: Informal meeting of heads of state.** On the agenda: internal security, migration, Brexit.

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