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European Commission launches European Semester, proposes taking UK out of Excessive Deficit Procedure

The European Commission today launched the 2017-18 European Semester exercise. This launch comprises the publication of the following documents:

- [2018 Annual Growth Survey](#)
- [2018 Alert Mechanism Report](#)
- [2018 draft Joint Employment Report](#)
- [Proposal for the Amendment of Employment Guidelines](#)
- [Recommendation for a Council Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area](#)
- [assessment of euro area Member States' 2018 Draft Budgetary Plans: a Chapeau Communication](#) and individual Opinions for 18 euro area Member States (except Greece).

Full details and links are available in the following press release:

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-17-4682_en.htm

For the UK, the Commission also published a Recommendation for a Council Decision to abrogate its Excessive Deficit Procedure, as the deficit was brought below 3% in 2016-17:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/commission-recommendation-council-decision-abrogating-decision-2008-713-ec-existence-excessive-deficit-united-kingdom_en

The next step of the European Semester process will be publication of individual Country Reports next February.

If you have any comments on or questions about anything in the package or the process as a whole, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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CEEP Public Services Board: Interview Questionnaire on SME Definition Evaluation

Dear members of the CEEP Public Services Board (21/11/2017)

As agreed during last week's Public Services Board meeting, I would like to forward you hereafter the [questionnaire for the interview on the Commission's evaluation study on EU SME Definition](#) that the consortium of consultancies sent us in view of our upcoming interview with them.

As discussed, we would like to encourage you all to send in your proposals for answers and for concrete examples to illustrate these. As the interview with Thierry Durnerin, Chair of the CEEP Public Services Board, will already take place next week Wednesday, **please send me your input for our CEEP answers to the questions by this week Friday, 24 November 2017, at the latest.** Thank you very much in advance.

I also would like to thank all of you who contributed actively to the very fruitful meeting of Public Services Board last week. Prior to the draft minutes, I would like to forward you the the presentations of our two guests at the meeting:

- [Presentation of Mr Tudor-Trestieni ION](#), Policy Coordinator in Unit G.1. of the Commission's DG GROW, on the recent Commission Public Procurement Communication
- [Presentation of Mr Christian MELLY](#), Representative of EURORAI (European cooperation of public sector audit institutions), on the activities of EURORAI

Should you have any questions or remarks, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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First follow-up to CEEP Sustainability Board meeting

Dear members of the CEEP Sustainability Board (20/11/2017)

Prior to the draft minutes and next steps, I would like to thank all participants for their very active contribution to yesterday's meeting of the CEEP Sustainability Board.

Please find hereafter the [presentation of Mr Bailey, Head of Unit at the European Commission's DG CONNECT](#), who is in charge of coordinating the Digital Single Market. During 1,5 very fruitful hours, he discussed with us the current state of play of the Digital Single Market, the vision the Commission has for its future and the role public services' providers play in it.

I would like to inform you that **the Sustainability Board decided on four themes of reflection that will structure its next activities:**

1. **Data ownership and data use**
2. **The role of platforms**
3. **Infrastructure financing and investment**
4. **The consumers perspective and innovation**

During the meeting, members identified respectively one or two issues to which they would like to contribute. **Please feel warmly invited to contact me, should you also wish to get involved in CEEP's work on one or several of these four issues.** It was decided to draft one-pagers on each one of them, based on the input of the respective group of members interested in them. The latter will structure our debate at the next Sustainability Board meeting at the beginning of 2018 (date to be communicated shortly).

Moreover, on behalf of Ian Catlow, Head of London's European Office, I also would like to forward you their very kind **invitation to an event on "Paying for mobility in a MaaS context" on 22 November 2017, from 9.30h – 13.00h, at London's European Office in Brussels:**

In September 2015, Polis, Mastercard and Transport for London organized a successful workshop on 'Contactless payments in public transport'. Since then, a lot has happened. New payment systems appear, as well as new service concepts such as Mobility as a Service. Time to take stock, and see what is happening in Europe with regards to payment for mobility in a MaaS context!

Expert speakers from (a.o.) EU institutions, Transport for London, RUTER, MasterCard, BEUC, EPF and the MASAI Mobility Community will discuss innovation in payment for mobility, public transport fare management, the benefits for passengers and transport authorities, and how this can contribute to the EU's multimodality perspectives.

Please find hereafter the [event's draft agenda](#) as well as the [possibility to register](#). Should you have any comments or remarks, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Draft CEEP Feedback to WFD Roadmap & Draft CEEP Letter on Technical Guidance EQS

Dear members of the CEEP Water Task Force (10/11/2017)

I would like to send you two draft CEEP documents that you might want to comment on:

Please find hereafter a [first draft of the CEEP feedback](#) to the Commission's Evaluation and Fitness Check [Roadmap for the Water Framework Directive \(WFD\) and Floods Directive \(FD\)](#). It is based on the input that I have received from Christina Christopoulou from BDEW whom I would like to thank very much for her contribution.

Please feel warmly invited to **provide your proposals for amendments in track changes directly in the document by next Wednesday, 15 November, at 4.00 pm at the latest.**

Please note that the Commission imposes a maximum of 4,000 characters for any feedback that is provided. Therefore, as the current CEEP draft includes 3,975 characters, please take into account that you need to kindly propose the deletion of other paragraphs if you wish to introduce new ones.

In addition to the working documents for our next CEEP Water Task Force meeting on 21 November (2.00 to 5.00 pm), I would like to forward you hereafter a [draft CEEP letter](#) on the [Technical Guidance EQS](#) that the Commission has recently brought forward in its final draft. Wennemar Cramer, CEEP Expert in the Commissions Expert Group on the Drinking Water Directive, very kindly drafted this letter. Please bring your comments to the Task Force meeting on 21 November as we will decide there on the letter's final version. Should you not be able to participate, but wish to contribute comments, please contact me in the course of next week ahead of the meeting.

For your information, please find hereafter the [final CEEP feedback to the Commission's Roadmap on the UWWTD](#). I would like to thank, once again, all members who have actively contributed to it. I remain at your disposal, should you have any questions or remarks.

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CEEP Newsflash

Latest issues of CEEP Newsflash:

[CEEP Newsflash – 10 November 2017](#)

[CEEP Newsflash – 17 November 2017.docx](#)

Social Europe e-newsletter : 21 November 2017

Latest Social Europe e-newsletter attached: [Social Europe Newsletter – 21 November 2017](#)

Eversheds Sutherland : E-briefings, Updates and Conferences

See below links to information received from our partners **Eversheds Sutherland**:

[Avoiding-victimisation-2](#)

[Complex-employment-disputes-training-flyer](#)

[Investigation-general](#)

[Minimum-wages](#)

[Rising ET claims Briefings 2018](#)

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