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EDITORIAL, by **Valeria Ronziti**

Dear reader:



Recent weeks have been a rollercoaster for the future of the EU and the economic recovery from the COVID-19. On 10 November, after months of intense negotiations, the European Parliament and the presidency of the European Council reached a political agreement on the basis of the €1,8 trillion negotiated by EU leaders in July (which combines the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 worth €1,07tn and the €750bln Next Generation EU).

A week later, on 16 November, the EU ambassadors of Poland and of Hungary blocked the approval process, opposing the compromise found on the creation of a rule of law mechanism attached to the EU funds. Throwing the EU back in crisis mode a few days before a meeting of the EU heads of state and of government on the COVID-19 crisis, the decision of the Hungarian and Polish governments has put a break on the swift availability of the EU support badly needed by some Member States.

Like many EU stakeholders, CEEP and the other EU social partners deplored this decision, calling on "Member States to endorse the agreement found on the European recovery fund and Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027" in a joint statement. Noting that "the agreement (...) is essential to help the EU economy recover from the damage the COVID crisis continues to inflict", we highlighted that "European enterprises and workers urgently need the EU financial support foreseen in this agreement", and that "it is time to deliver the compromises found for the common good of all Member States. [Read More.](#)

CEEP Renaming Event “A Milestone for SGIs in Europe”

On Tuesday 8 December 2020 (16:00-17:30 CET), our – long-awaited – renaming event will take place!

[Register here to save your seat and join us!](#)

On top of the official launch of our new name, the event will be the occasion to bid farewell to our outgoing President and welcome the new one. It will also feature a high-level panel discussion on the vision for the European recovery and the role of Services of General Interest in this process. On this occasion, we will welcome Valdis Dombrovskis, European Commission Executive Vice-President for an Economy that Works for People, as well as MEP Eva Maydell (EPP, BG), MEP Brando Benifei (S&D, IT) and MEP Anna Cavazzini (Greens/EFA, DE). The event will be organised via Zoom, allowing a broad participation from across Europe. All the information will be communicated to registered participants a few days ahead of the 8th of December.

Joint CEEP-Eurocities event “Providing Services of General Interest in times of Covid-19. Recovery and resilience in the EU”

On 25 November 2020, together with Eurocities, CEEP organized a joint city dialogue to discuss the provision of Services of General Interests (SGIs) and their contribution to the recovery in the aftermath of the Covid-19 outbreak. [Read more.](#)



Presentation of the EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027

On Tuesday 24 November 2020, the European Commission published the New Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027. The new Action Plan presents a comprehensive approach and includes the key actions that are needed for a European approach to integration and inclusion, focused on 4 pillars: Education and training, Employment and skills, Access to healthcare and Housing. [Read more.](#)



From left to right: Eric Mamer, Chief Spokesperson of the European Commission, Margaritis Schinas, European Commission VP for Promoting the European Way of Life, and Ylva Johansson, European Commissioner for Home Affairs (European Union, 2020, Source: EC - Audiovisual Service)

The European Commission presents the European Semester Autumn Package

On 18 November 2020, the European Commission presented its European Semester Autumn Package, including the Euro area recommendation 2021 and the Proposal for a Joint Employment Report 2021. This is the second step in the 2021 European Semester cycle which began in September with the publication of the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy, and provided policy guidance to Member States in drawing up their Recovery and Resilience Plans, as well as defined the relationship between the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and the European Semester. [Read more.](#)

A new EU Pharmaceutical Strategy presented

On 25 November, the European Commission published its new EU Pharmaceutical Strategy. Learning from the COVID-19 crisis, the strategy intends to set out a plan for a future-proof and crisis-resilient EU pharmaceutical system relying on 3 pillars: ensuring that patients have access to affordable medicines, supporting the competitiveness and innovative capacity and finding the necessary link for more sustainability, crisis preparedness and response and building a strong EU voice in the world in the EU pharmaceutical industry. [Read more](#).

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