

SIG
europa

Newsflash

15 January 2021



[Website](#)

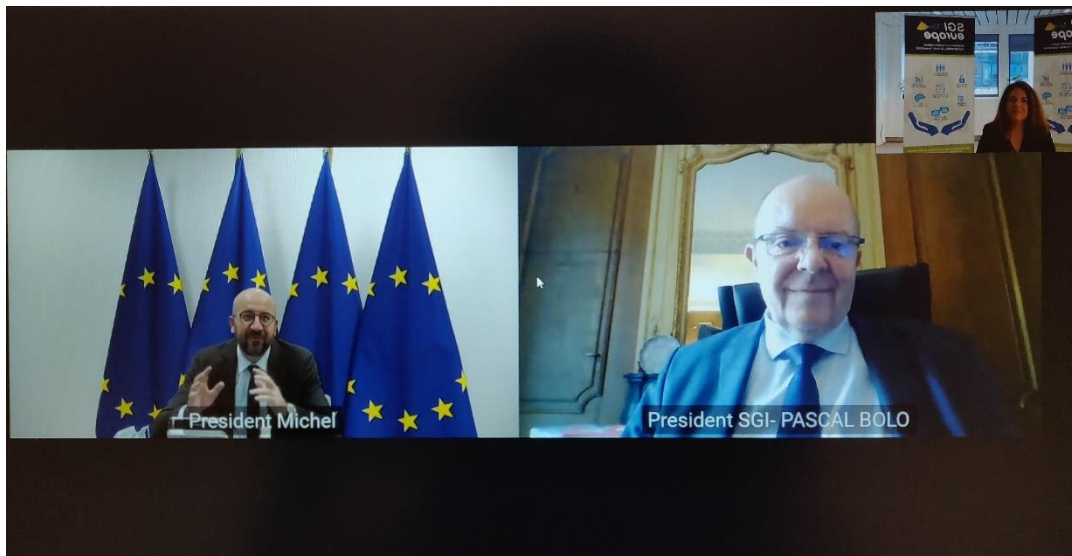


[Twitter](#)



[LinkedIn](#)

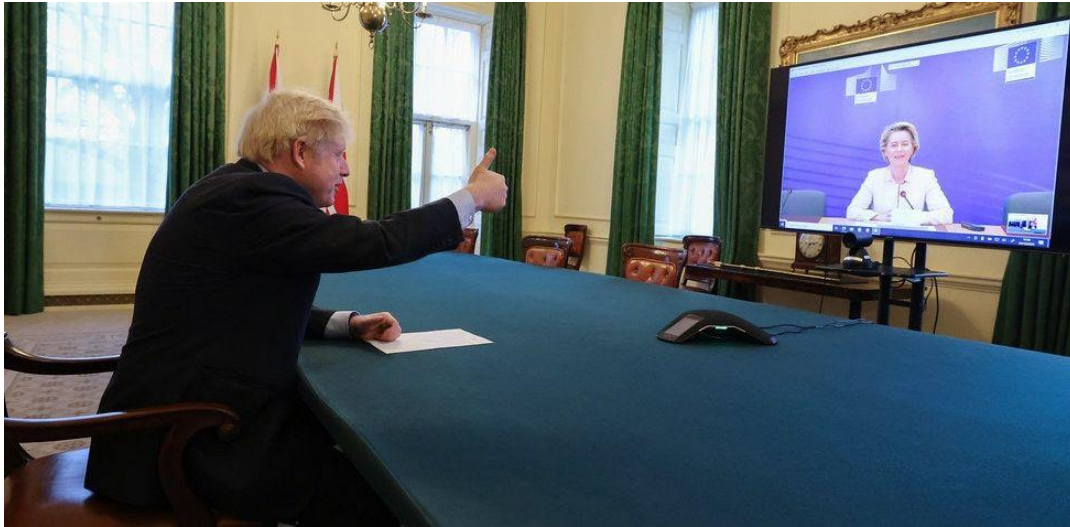
Following up on the adoption of our new name on 8 December, SIG Europe is also modernising its Newsflash and Newsletter, which will now become a weekly occurrence. Here is the first edition.



Meeting of SGI Europe with Charles Michel, President of the European Council

On 15 January, Pascal Bolo, President of SGI Europe, and Valeria Ronzitti, General Secretary, met with Charles Michel, President of the European Council. Besides being the first meeting with the President of one of the EU institutions for SGI Europe, the meeting was also the first one for Pascal Bolo as President of SGI Europe.

Following up on our official renaming on 8 December, the meeting was a perfect opportunity to promote our key messages, reiterate our support for a Green, Fair and Digital recovery, as well as recall the contributions of SGI providers to the management of the pandemic. The meeting was also the occasion to have a first discussion on the contribution that SGI Europe can make to the success of the Social Summit to be organised in Porto in May 2021 by the Portuguese Presidency of the EU. [Read more.](#)



Conclusion of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement

After nine months of intensive negotiations since the exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union on 31 January 2020, the European Commission and the United Kingdom agreed on 24 December 2020 on the terms of their future cooperation. Avoiding a No-Deal scenario, SGI Europe welcomes the deal, which balances the British people's decision to leave the European Union whilst promoting the longstanding relationships between EU and UK.

Concluding the UK's withdrawal from the EU and setting the new EU-UK partnership, this deal is seen as a fair and balanced one, protecting the European interests, ensuring fair competition, and providing predictability for both parties. [Read more.](#)



Consultation on EU Taxonomy Delegated Acts on Mitigation and Adaptation: SGI Europe's response for better and genuine climate-friendly investment

On 18 December, SGI Europe, permanent observer of the Sustainable Finance Platform, submitted its response to the public consultation on the EU Taxonomy Delegated Acts on Mitigation and Adaptation, which you can find [here](#). The Commission received on that day 46.000 contributions. [Read more.](#)

SGI Europe projects accepted by the European Commission under the "Support for social dialogue" call for proposals

The European Commission accepted two new projects proposed by SGI Europe within the “Support for social dialogue” call for proposals. The new projects will address the involvement of the services of general interest in the European Semester and the green skills needs for the vocational education and training. [Read more.](#)

SGI Europe at the hearing of the European Economic and Social Committee on Teleworking and Gender Equality

On 15 January, the European Economic and Social Committee held a remote hearing to gather reflexions, recommendations and best practices from Institutions, Researchers, Social Partners and Civil Society Organisations on teleworking and gender equality.

Guillaume Afellat, Policy Advisor at SGI Europe, recalled on this occasion that the pandemic has completely changed the dynamic for telework and that it does not equal perfect work-life balance in the present context. It is important for social partners to take this into account in their social dialogue and collective bargaining, in full respect of their autonomy and to consider the gender perspective of telework. It is also crucial to improve the access to quality, affordable and accessible childcare and elderly care services to provide relief for women who are still the ones bearing most of the burden of unpaid work at home. [Read more.](#)

Kick-off of the Year of Rail 2021

Friday 1 January 2021 marked the beginning of the European Year of Rail. The initiative will highlight the benefits of rail as a sustainable, smart and safe means of transport. A variety of activities will put rail in the spotlight throughout 2021 across the continent, to encourage the use of rail by both citizens and businesses and to contribute to the EU Green Deal goal of becoming climate-neutral by 2050. [Read more.](#)