

## TODAYS NEWS

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European  
Commission

# OUTCOME OF COMMISSION MIDDAY BRIEFING

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### [Commission adds two Ghanaian airlines to the EU list of air carriers subject to an operating ban](#)

The European Commission has today updated the list of airlines banned in the European Union to impose an operating ban on one air carrier from Ghana and to place operating restrictions on another air carrier from that country.

### [7.5 million of EU funds to help 951 former workers in marine manufacturing in Denmark find new jobs](#)

The European Commission today approved an application from Denmark for assistance under the European Globalisation adjustment Fund (EGF). The funding will help 951 workers in the marine manufacturing sector back into employment. The application – for a total of €7.5 million – concerns workers made redundant in 45 businesses in the Danish region of Nordjylland. The Commission will now make a proposal to the European Parliament and the Council to mobilise the budgetary resources.

"The global financial crisis has changed the conditions and expectations for the future of shipbuilding. We now anticipate that this industry will move to low cost areas, mainly in Asia, whose market share has been growing spectacularly in the years leading up to the crisis" said László Andor, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. He added: "It is unlikely that the companies concerned by this application could potentially return to normal production at the end of the crisis. The Globalisation Fund can help cushion this dramatic change, preparing workers for new job opportunities."

The Danish application relates to 1,122 redundancies in 45 enterprises mostly involved in producing machinery and equipment for the shipbuilding sector and located in Nordjylland, in the north of Denmark. The fall in demand from shipbuilders is at the origin of the dismissals. The shipbuilding sector has seen demand plummet due to a combination of factors, including the financial and economic crisis, which brought about reduced shipbuilding requirements. By the end of 2008 / beginning of 2009, the placement of new orders had come to an almost complete halt and several of the ships on order had their delivery dates postponed.

### [€2.8m EU globalisation fund set to help 1,429 Spanish car workers in Spain](#)

The European Commission has today approved an application from Spain for assistance under the European Globalisation adjustment Fund (EGF). The application will now be sent to the European Parliament and the Council for decision. The € 2,752,935 requested by the Spanish authorities will help 1,429 redundant workers back into employment. The application was submitted after 2,330 employees were made redundant by 23 enterprises operating in the automotive sector in Catalonia, in the north-east of Spain.

"The car industry has suffered enormously because of the financial and economic crisis", said László Andor, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. He added: "We welcome the Spanish application for EGF funding and I am confident that the planned measures funded through the EGF will help these workers find a new job quickly".

The Spanish application relates to 2,330 redundancies in 23 enterprises operating in the automotive sector. The dismissals were a consequence of the serious impact that the global financial and economic crisis has had on demand for vehicles in Spain and in its export markets. In 2008 new car registrations in Spain declined by 28 % compared with the previous year, mainly due to tight credit conditions, low consumer confidence and declining purchasing power. Moreover, the global nature of the crisis also led to a sales drop of 9.6 % for vehicles manufactured in Spain and sold outside the country.

All the redundancies covered by this application occurred in autonomous region of Catalonia. The number of dismissals compared with the previous year, had increased by 42 % in 2008 and by 157 % in 2009 in the Catalonian automotive sector.

Of the 2,330 workers made redundant, the 1,429 workers with the biggest difficulties for their re-integration into the labour market are targeted for assistance from the EGF. The package will help the targeted workers by offering them guidance, preparation of personal pathways, training and on-the-job training, workshops on entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship assistance, peer support and incentives for the rapid re-integration into the labour market. The total estimated cost of the package of EGF is approximately €4.2 million, of which the European Globalisation adjustment Fund will pay €2.7 million.

### **839 former Qimonda workers to receive €2.4 million in EU funding for job search**

The European Commission today approved an application from Portugal for assistance from the EU Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF). The Commission will now make a proposal to the European Parliament and the Council to mobilise the budgetary resources. The grant of €2,405,671 will help 839 redundant workers in the semiconductor industry to find new jobs.

"Today's decision will help the former Qimonda workers on the road to a new job through training and support to give them new skills", said László Andor, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. He added: "I am confident that the planned measures will make the transition to a new job easier".

The Portuguese application relates to 839 redundancies in Qimonda Portugal S.A., an enterprise in the semiconductors sector. Qimonda Portugal applied for a state of insolvency as a result of the total stoppage of production at the German Qimonda factory, which was the supplier of raw materials to Portuguese unit, and after the failure to find an agreement with potential investors who could have continued production in Portugal. The insolvency of the German multinational Qimonda AG was due to the financial crisis, causing a contraction of the global economy and, in the case of Qimonda, the additional effect of reducing its capacity to invest in innovation and production equipment and the excess capacity in the Dynamic Random Access Memory (DRAM) market, which created enormous pressure on prices, forcing various companies to reduce production.

### **The European Union approves EUR 264 million to help 19 African, Caribbean and Pacific States face the consequences of the economic crisis**

The European Commission approved the first financing decisions under the EUR 264 million 2010 allocation for the so-called Vulnerability FLEX mechanism to help the most vulnerable African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries cope with the impact of the global financial crisis and economic downturn. The V-FLEX mechanism is a short-term instrument which provided for EUR 500 million over two years (2009-2010).

### **Industrial producer prices up by 0.2% in both euro area and EU27**

In July 2010 compared with June 2010, the industrial producer price index rose by 0.2% in both the euro area (EA16) and the EU27. In June 2010, prices increased by 0.3% in both zones. In July 2010 compared

with July 2009, industrial producer prices gained 4.0% in the euro area and 4.4% in the EU27. These figures come from Eurostat.

### **Euro area and EU27 GDP up by 1.0%**

GDP increased by 1.0% in both the euro area (EA16) and the EU27 during the second quarter of 2010, compared with the previous quarter, according to first estimates released by Eurostat. In the first quarter of 2010, growth rates were +0.3% in both zones. Compared with the second quarter of 2009, seasonally adjusted GDP increased by 1.9% in both the euro area and the EU27, after +0.8% and +0.7% respectively for the previous quarter.

### **Moving fisheries and maritime policy forward: Commissioner Damanaki visits Germany**

European Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Commissioner Maria Damanaki arrives in Germany today for a series of engagements in Berlin and Hamburg. The Commissioner will be meeting ministers, parliamentarians and stakeholders to discuss a range of issues, including the present and future shape of fisheries and maritime policy in Europe. Commissioner Damanaki's visit will begin her visit to Germany with meetings in Berlin. She will first be holding talks on fisheries issues with Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Ilse Aigner, before she goes on to meet Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Urban Development Peter Ramsauer to discuss maritime policy. Maritime issues will also be at the forefront of the Commissioner's other meeting on Friday with a group of NGOs. On Monday Commissioner Damanaki will be in Hamburg. She will first attend a joint meeting with members of the Hamburg Senate and maritime stakeholders. This meeting will chiefly be an opportunity for an exchange of views on progress in integrated maritime policy-making, best practice and success stories in the maritime community. Commissioner Damanaki will then move on for talks with Hamburg Senator for Economics and Labour Affairs at the town hall. This will be followed by a working lunch at the invitation of the Hamburg Senate. Commissioner Damanaki will round off her visit to Germany with an address at the opening ceremony of the Global Maritime Environmental Congress. In her speech the Commissioner will focus on the ways in which the European Union's Integrated Maritime Policy can act as a catalyst for sustainable economic development in the EU maritime industry.

### **Commissioner Damanaki to host seminar on state of Europe's Fish Stocks**

On 14 September, European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Maria Damanaki, will open a one-day seminar on the state of fish stocks in European waters. The seminar aims to have open discussions on the latest scientific research on EU fisheries, and how it should be applied in practice for the 2011 fishing season and in the long term. The seminar will cover all major European fish stocks (cod, herring, anchovy, whiting, etc). Scientists will explain their estimates of how many fish are left in the seas, and what this implies in practice for fishermen. Seminar participants will then be able to discuss what needs to be done next in order to manage these fisheries sustainably. Commissioner Damanaki said: "Scientific advice needs to be at the root of decision-making, We need to look at the scientific facts about fish stocks and draw the right conclusions for management. This meeting will provide us with an excellent opportunity to do just that. I am very much looking forward to being at the seminar and I hope for a full audience and a lively discussion." The seminar, which is organised by the Commission, will have participants from the fishing industry, scientists and researchers, conservation organisations and NGOs. The seminar will take place from 09h00 to 16h30 in the Albert Borschette Conference Centre, 36, rue Froissart, Brussels. It is open to the press and public but pre-registration is required. To attend the seminar, please e-mail [MARE-Seminar2010@ec.europa.eu](mailto:MARE-Seminar2010@ec.europa.eu) for an invitation.