



Le principali attività del Centro EUROPE DIRECT Siena

Il Centro EUROPE DIRECT è un progetto europeo - ospitato dall'Università di Siena - che prevede l'attivazione di iniziative al fine di Informare, comunicare e formare sui temi dell'Unione europea.

Si tratta di un network di oltre 40 Reti Europe Direct (ED) in tutta Italia, coordinate dalla Commissione Europea; in Toscana si trovano a Siena e Firenze che cooperano attraverso un Coordinamento Toscano.

La EUROPE DIRECT Siena si rivolge a tutti i cittadini e ha l'obiettivo di diffondere sul territorio le informazioni relative alle politiche ed ai programmi dell'Unione nonché dei finanziamenti al fine di soddisfare le esigenze informative e formative su questo tema.

La EUROPE DIRECT Siena si occupa, inoltre, di organizzare, in collaborazione con altre istituzioni e associazioni del territorio, iniziative ed eventi volti a sensibilizzare i cittadini e soprattutto a promuovere il dibattito, favorendo la conoscenza delle tematiche legate all'Unione europea.

The future of European competitiveness: Report by Mario Draghi

On 9th September 2024, Mario Draghi, former European Central Bank President and one of Europe's great economic minds, presented his report on "[The future of European competitiveness](https://commission.europa.eu/topics/strengthening-european-competitiveness/eu-competitiveness-looking-ahead_en)". The report looks at the challenges faced by the industry and companies in the Single Market.

The findings of the report will contribute to the Commission's work on a new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness. And in particular, to the development of the new Clean Industrial Deal for competitive industries and quality jobs, which will be presented in the first 100 days of the new Commission mandate.

https://commission.europa.eu/topics/strengthening-european-competitiveness/eu-competitiveness-looking-ahead_en



President von der Leyen presents the next College of Commissioners

On 17th September, following a meeting with the European Parliament's Conference of Presidents, President von der Leyen announced [her plans](#) for the next College at a press conference in Strasbourg. The new structure ditches the outgoing College's system of Executive Vice-Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Commissioners, and replaces it with a more streamlined six Executive Vice-Presidents and 20 Commissioners. President von der Leyen said: "As the treaty says, each Member of the College is equal – and each Commissioner has an equal responsibility to deliver on our priorities. That means that all Commissioners must work together. In this spirit, each Executive Vice-President will also have a portfolio to focus on – for which they will have to work with other Commissioners. Because what affects security affects democracy, what affects the economy affects society, and what affects climate and environment, also affects people and business. This is also why we do not have the extra layer of Vice-Presidents. Leaner structure, more interactive and interlinked".

The names of the proposed commissioners and the related portfolios are illustrated in the following figure.



https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_4723

Next steps

The presentation of September, 17 paves the way for the start of the confirmation hearing process, once Parliament receives all the necessary documentation.

President von der Leyen presents the next College of Commissioners

The Committee on Legal Affairs will scrutinise the declarations of interests of the Commissioners-designate. This is an essential precondition for the holding of the confirmation hearings.

Each Commissioner-designate's responses to the written questions submitted by the Parliament will be published on Parliament's website in advance of the confirmation hearing.

The Conference of Presidents will organise the confirmation hearings based on a recommendation of the Conference of Committee Chairs. Each Commissioner-designate will be invited to appear before the appropriate committee or committees for a single confirmation hearing, lasting three hours. However, in the case of particularly large or complex portfolios involving more than one committee, the confirmation hearing may last for up to four hours. The confirmation hearings will be livestreamed.

Parliament will evaluate Commissioners-designate based on their general competence, European commitment and personal independence, as well as assess their knowledge of their prospective portfolio and their communication skills.

The committee coordinators will evaluate the individual Commissioners-designate after the confirmation hearing and prepare a single evaluation letter for each Commissioner-designate. To be approved, coordinators representing a majority of at least 2/3 of the committee members belonging to a political group, should approve the Commissioner-designate. If this majority cannot be reached, more information can be requested by additional written questions, or by a resumed confirmation hearing, lasting for 1,5 hours.

The evaluation letters are conveyed to the Conference of Presidents, which can then declare the confirmation hearings closed and authorise the publication of all letters of evaluation.

Following successful confirmation hearings, the President-elect will present the College of Commissioners and their programme at Parliament's plenary, followed by a debate, and a vote to elect or reject the Commission as a whole, by a majority of the votes cast (by roll call).

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20240917IPR24034/future-commission-discussed-by-ep-leaders>

State of the Energy Union Report 2024 shows EU progress to ensure secure, competitive and affordable energy for all

The EU has managed unprecedented challenges in the energy policy landscape

On 11 September, the Commission published the **State of the Energy Union Report 2024** which describes how the EU has managed unprecedented challenges in the energy policy landscape during this Commission's mandate, equipping the EU with a regulatory framework for pursuing the clean energy transition and laying the foundations for renewed economic growth and competitiveness. This report is published each year to take stock of the EU's progress towards the objectives of the Energy Union. Crucially, over the past years, the EU has managed to withstand critical risks to its security of energy supply, regain control over the energy market and prices, and accelerate the transition towards climate neutrality. The EU has also continued to stand by Ukraine in the face of relentless Russian attacks on its energy system. New and emerging challenges will need to be addressed in the future, such as the current ambition gap in renewables and energy efficiency targets, the increase of energy poverty, the energy price differential compared to other global competitors, and the risk of new strategic critical dependencies. They will require a decisive policy response and a step change in efforts at EU and Member State level, through more coordination, market integration and joint action. A [press release](#) and [factsheet](#) are now available online.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_4581



European Mobility Week kicks off to promote shared public spaces for sustainable urban mobility and improved quality of life

An annual event promoting sustainable urban mobility

The European Mobility Week, an annual event **promoting sustainable urban mobility**, has kicked off on September 2024, with over 3,000 cities and towns participating in a week-long festival from 16 to 22 September. This year's focus is on 'shared public space', highlighting the benefits of more balanced road space allocation and respect for other users. The week's activities include car-free days, cycling tours, and transforming car parks into green spaces.

https://transport.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/european-mobility-week-kicks-promote-shared-public-spaces-sustainable-urban-mobility-and-improved-2024-09-16_en?prefLang=da



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