

EUROPE DIRECT Siena

Information Centre

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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.

EU's new strategy to shape a global clean and resilient transition



On October 16, The Commission and the High Representative have presented an international strategy for securing Europe's place in global markets. The new EU global climate and energy vision presents the EU's offer to the world: using diplomacy to protect our core interests, promoting standards for a fair

transition by assisting our partners to develop theirs, and addressing the new security threats and challenges that endanger both European interests and those of our partners.

The EU is actively contributing to the ongoing clean industrial revolution across the world. The vision adds an external dimension to the Clean Industrial Deal and sets a new strategy to strengthen existing partnerships and forging new, mutually beneficial ones. To fully reap the benefits of the clean transition, the EU must be the industrial powerhouse supplying and providing clean tech and adaptation solutions to countries around the world, and create new business opportunities for its own clean tech industry. As a market still dependent on fossil energy imports, renewables will remain at the heart of the EU's clean transition. Almost half of EU electricity was generated by renewables in 2024. This significantly increases the EU's energy independence and security. The EU has also seen an increase of 111% in the share of clean energy investments since 2015. The vision proposes to ramp up the EU's clean technology manufacturing capacity to reach 15% of the global tech market, while improving its industrial competitiveness, in line with the Clean Industrial Deal.

The vision also reaffirms the EU's commitment to a rules-based international order. The EU's message to global partners is clear: we are working to fulfil the goals set out in the Paris Agreement; we are a reliable partner that plays by the rules; and we are open for business and cooperation.

The EU will continue fostering bilateral partnerships and multilateral alliances – existing and new ones - at international fora and at different levels, ranging from Free Trade Agreements, to Just Energy Transition Partnerships to Green Alliances. In addition, carbon pricing is crucial for achieving global climate goals, reducing emissions, promoting innovation,

and ensuring a just and orderly transition away from fossil fuels. Major economies have recently adopted and expanded carbon pricing policies, which shows that it works. The EU is committed to its promotion through various initiatives, including supporting other countries in developing robust carbon pricing policies through a dedicated taskforce.

The EU will continue driving robust international climate policies. This includes stronger action to address the nexus between climate change, environmental degradation, and security and resilience by engaging at multilateral (UN and NATO) and bilateral levels. It will implement the actions set out in the 2023 Joint Communication on the Climate-Security Nexus and continue combatting information manipulation and disinformation on climate change.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2389

Commission and High Representative present new Defence Roadmap to strengthen European defence capabilities

On October 16, the Commission and the High Representative have proposed to EU Member States the 'Preserving Peace - Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030', a comprehensive plan to strengthen European defence capabilities.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said: "The recent threats have shown that Europe is at risk. We have to protect every citizen and square centimetre of our territory. And Europe must respond with unity, solidarity and determination. Today's Defence Roadmap presents a clear plan with shared goals and concrete milestones on our path to 2030. Because only what gets measured gets done. Moving from plans to action, the Roadmap proposes four European Flagships: the European Drone Defence Initiative, the Eastern Flank Watch, the European Air Shield, and the European Space Shield. This will strengthen our defence industries, accelerate production and maintain our long-standing support to Ukraine."

As requested by the European Council in June, the Defence Roadmap outlines clear objectives and milestones to close capability gaps, accelerate defence investments across Member States, and guide the EU's progress towards full defence readiness by 2030. Strengthening Europe's defence also means standing firmly with Ukraine.

European Readiness Flagships

To act swiftly where a joint approach is most effective, the Defence Roadmap proposes four initial European Readiness Flagships: The European Drone Defence Initiative, the Eastern Flank Watch, the European Air Shield, and the European Space Shield. These will reinforce Europe's ability to deter and defend across land, air, sea, cyber, and space while contributing directly to NATO capability targets.

Readiness through Capability Coalitions

Achieving full defence readiness means ensuring that Member States' armed forces can anticipate, prepare for, and respond to any crisis, including high-intensity conflict. The roadmap calls on Member States to complete the formation of Capability Coalitions in nine key areas — to close critical capability gaps through joint development and procurement.

These are air & missile defence; strategic enablers; military mobility; artillery systems; cyber, AI, electronic warfare; missile & ammunition; drones & counter-drones; ground combat; and maritime.

A strong, resilient and technologically innovative EU defence industrial base

Closing gaps requires an EU defence industry that can deliver the capabilities that Member States need at the necessary scale and speed. The full potential of innovation for defence, including Ukrainian solutions, should be tapped. The resilience of defence supply chains should be secured, including by reducing critical dependencies in raw materials and other critical inputs.

Boosting defence investment

A simplified and integrated European defence equipment market is key for scaling up production, achieving economies of scale, and driving innovation. By 2030, the goal is to establish a genuine EU-wide market with harmonised rules that enable industry to deliver at speed and volume. The Commission will track industrial capacity — starting with air and missile defence, drones, and space systems — to ensure Europe can meet its most urgent needs.

The roadmap follows the ReArm Europe Plan/Readiness 2030, a major boost in public and private investment, which gives Member States greater financial flexibility to strengthen production and readiness. The European Commission and the High Representative will present this roadmap to the European Council, including the proposals for pan-European flagship projects that will guide Europe to full defence readiness by 2030. The roadmap also sets out plans to establish an EU-wide military mobility area by 2027, with harmonised rules and a network of land, air, and sea routes to move troops and equipment swiftly across Europe. Developed in close coordination with NATO, this will strengthen Europe's ability to respond rapidly to crises.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2396

Via libera a EDIP, il piano industriale Ue per la difesa da 1,5 miliardi di euro

Il Parlamento europeo e il Consiglio dell'Ue hanno raggiunto il 16 ottobre un accordo sul programma dell'industria europea della difesa (EDIP), un embrione di difesa comune a cui saranno dedicati 1,5 miliardi di euro per il prossimo biennio. L'intesa è arrivata sul filo di lana, al quarto e ultimo triloquio, dopo intense discussioni tra i negoziatori nelle ultime settimane.



Alla fine, l'accordo provvisorio – che dovrà essere ribadito dall'Aula di Strasburgo e dai Paesi membri – conferma il bilancio proposto a marzo 2024 dalla Commissione europea: 1,5

miliardi di euro sotto forma di sovvenzioni, di cui 300 milioni destinati direttamente al supporto dell'Ucraina. Su input dell'Eurocamera, è stata inclusa la possibilità di contributi finanziari aggiuntivi, ad esempio canalizzando contributi supplementari dal fondo SAFE da 150 miliardi. Il gruppo dei socialisti e democratici (S&D) ha denunciato la "riluttanza" degli Stati membri a trovare nuovi fondi per l'EDIP, che rimane per ora piuttosto limitato

Il programma per l'industria della difesa "rafforzerà la nostra capacità di produrre e fornire attrezzature di difesa critiche e garantirà che possiamo rispondere in modo rapido e deciso al contesto di sicurezza sempre più complesso", ha commentato Troels Lund Poulsen, ministro della Difesa della Danimarca, Paese che detiene la presidenza semestrale del Consiglio dell'Ue e che ha guidato i negoziati con l'Eurocamera.

In sostanza EDIP permetterà agli Stati membri di incrementare la cooperazione a lungo termine in materia di armamenti, e istituisce il primo meccanismo in assoluto volto a garantire la sicurezza dell'approvvigionamento di prodotti per la difesa in tutta l'Unione. Nell'accordo, Consiglio dell'Ue ed Eurocamera hanno stabilito che il costo dei componenti provenienti da paesi terzi non dovrebbe superare il 35 per cento del costo stimato dei componenti del prodotto finale. Un'asticella che riflette un equilibrio tra il principio del 'buy European' e la volontà di cooperare con paesi partner a vantaggio dell'industria europea.

Il programma istituirà un quadro giuridico per i progetti europei di difesa di interesse comune, che dovranno coinvolgere almeno quattro Stati membri per poter beneficiare di finanziamenti. Anche l'Ucraina potrà partecipare. L'industria della difesa di Kiev sarà coinvolta attraverso lo strumento di sostegno all'Ucraina, con una dotazione finanziaria di 300 milioni di euro.

"L'accordo odierno segna un progresso reale, un passo concreto verso una maggiore autonomia, capacità più forti e la protezione delle nostre democrazie", ha affermato il socialista francese Raphael Glucksmann, correlatore del regolamento per il Parlamento europeo. L'eurodeputato ha indicato tre grandi traguardi: "Investimenti congiunti, appalti comuni e la piena integrazione delle industrie ucraine ed europee".

Di fronte alla dotazione limitata di 1,5 miliardi di euro, il Consiglio dell'Ue e il Parlamento europeo hanno invitato la Commissione europea a esaminare le opzioni per aggiungere nuovi fondi per EDIP nei prossimi due anni.

<https://www.eunews.it/2025/10/17/via-libera-a-edip-il-piano-industriale-ue-per-la-difesa-da-15-miliardi-di-euro/>

Three finalists announced for the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought



The list of the three finalists for the Sakharov Prize was published. The short list vying for the European Union's top human rights award comprises journalists and humanitarian workers. The winner will be announced on Wednesday, October 22, during the plenary assembly in Strasbourg. The award ceremony will be on December 16, also in the hemicycle of the French

city.

According to the regulations, the three finalists were chosen by the Committees on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and Development (DEVE), together with the Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI), from a list of candidates submitted in October by the political groups.

The first nomination is formed by a pair of journalists, both in prison for reporting on human rights violations in their home countries: Belarus's Andrzej Poczobut and Georgia's Mzia Amaglobelli.

Poczobut, in prison since 2021, was sentenced to eight years for denouncing the conditions of the Polish minority in Belarus and the illiberal distortions of the administration of President Aleksandr Lukašenko. The European People's Party (EPP) and Conservative Party (ECR) groups supported his candidature.

Mzia Amoglobeli, a Georgian, has been in prison since January 2025, on a specious charge of insulting a public official. She founded two independent newspapers, Batumelebi and Netgazeti, which are often critical of the public administration of the Georgian Dream party. The Popular Rasa Juknevičienė (EPP, Lithuania) and 60 other MEPs proposed her candidature.

The proposal of the parliamentary group Socialists and Democrats (S&D) is instead related to the conflict in Gaza. It includes the Palestinian Press Association, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS), and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Gaza is considered the most fatal region in the world for journalists, with at least 274 journalists killed. The MEPs of The Left also support the nomination, as confirmed in a joint note by the two 5 Star Movement MEPs, Danilo Della Valle and Carolina Morace: "We appeal to all political groups to send a message of peace and hope, Palestinian journalists deserve the Prize."

The last finalist is an expression of the will of the reformist group, Renew Europe. The bid proposes to award the prize to Serbian students who have been protesting against corruption in the country. A movement that evolved from a youth movement into a broad representation of civil society.

The winner will get a cheque for 50,000 euros. The Conference of Presidents, composed of the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, and the leaders of the various political groups, will choose the winner in the coming days. Previous winners include illustrious personalities such as Nelson Mandela, the President of South Africa, the Russian dissident Alexei Navalny, and the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize laureate María Corina Machado.

<https://www.eunews.it/en/2025/10/16/three-finalists-announced-for-the-sakharov-prize-for-freedom-of-thought/>

How EU wants to use 175 billion frozen Russian assets to finance Ukraine



The question of what to do with Russian state assets frozen on European soil has been on the agenda in Brussels for some time. It is a decidedly political issue with strong legal and economic implications. Now, however, faced with Ukraine's enormous needs—an estimated €52 billion in budget support and €80 billion in

military assistance until 2027—and the gradual disengagement of the United States, the European Commission has decided to take action.

At the informal Copenhagen summit, it received an initial endorsement in principle from the heads of state and government of the 27 to work on a legislative proposal. The aim is to use the €175 billion owned by the Russian Central Bank, but mostly kept by Euroclear in Brussels, without any legal confiscation. The terrain is tricky, but—said a senior European Commission official—“we believe we have found a way to do it without violating international law.”

At the basis of the reasoning, Brussels cites the conclusions of the European Council of a year ago, which stated in black and white that “Russia’s assets should remain frozen until Russia has ceased its war of aggression against Ukraine and compensated it for the damage caused by that war.” This principle, in essence, is the security guarantee on which the complex contrivance in the pipeline rests, together with the fact that, as a senior official explains, the EU would not touch the claim that Moscow holds on the Belgian financial services company, but rather the cash that has accumulated over the past three and a half years. “The cash belongs to Euroclear,” Brussels argues.

The idea then is for Euroclear to invest this cash in a dedicated debt contract for the Union, and for the latter to lend it to Ukraine at zero interest and in several tranches “as needed.” Kyiv would repay the loan only once the war is over and Russia has paid reparations. At that point, Brussels would in turn repay Euroclear. A “reparations loan”, as Ursula von der Leyen called it in her State of the Union address last 10 December.

In order for the construction to hold, “we would need guarantees from the Member States,” a senior official further explained. Guarantees issued bilaterally, totalling 175 billion, with a structure similar to the one implemented with the 100-billion SURE fund triggered in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the Commission, the risk of such guarantees would remain “limited” and “under the control of the Member States.” That is, it would only materialise in the event that the 27 decide to lift sanctions on Russia—and thus unfreeze its state assets—without Moscow having compensated Ukraine.

That is why, together with the proposal for the use of assets, “it is important to change the sanctions regime to avoid an accidental release.” Here lies perhaps the most delicate passage. In essence, to minimise the risks for member states, the European Commission is considering eliminating the unanimous vote for the extension of sanctions, which is held every six months. “We would not propose this if we did not think it was possible,” assures the source. The possibility is allowed by Article 31 of the Treaty on European Union, which stipulates in point 2 that the Council of the European Union may act by qualified majority in foreign policy and thus also in sanctions matters.

The EU executive's assessment is that the sanctions regime itself can be altered by circumventing the unanimity requirement.

Among the 27, who in Copenhagen gave timid support in principle to the Commission, scepticism is not lacking. The first to put the brakes on is the Belgian Prime Minister, Bart de Wever, who is worried about the substantial part of Russian resources tied up in his country. France also calls for calm. "Europe must remain an attractive and reliable place," President Emmanuel Macron emphasised, stressing the importance of getting things right at the informal summit. "If there are rules, they must be respected." Denmark and Latvia recalled the legal aspect of the issue but expressed confidence that the Commission could find a balance and awaited the proposal from the EU executive.

There are other risks: Putin has already signed a decree that would allow him to confiscate foreign assets in Russia, and a problem of financial credibility and confidence in the markets and the euro should not be underestimated. For now, the European Commission intends to proceed. The heads of state and government will reopen the issue already at the next European Council on 23–24 October. If they indeed give a mandate to the executive to present a legislative proposal, Brussels' aim is to dispel any doubts and put an unassailable scheme on the table "at the beginning of the second quarter of next year"—around the fourth anniversary of Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

<https://www.eunews.it/en/2025/10/06/how-eu-wants-to-use-175-billion-frozen-russian-assets-to-finance-ukraine/>

Six EU-Funded Projects Receive the 2025 RegioStars Awards in Brussels

The RegioStars awards have become Europe's label of excellence for EU-funded projects that demonstrate the impact and inclusiveness of regional development.

This year's finalists include initiatives ranging from carbon loss reduction in peatlands across the Atlantic Area to the deployment of electric shared cabin taxis on train tracks in Germany, a Lithuanian virtual library for those with print disabilities, and a modern ecological shopping centre in Belgium.

The notable AGEO project, focusing on geohazard risk management in the Atlantic region, garnered two awards, including the Public Choice Award with about 2,000 votes.

The 2025 REGIOSTARS Award Winners:

A Competitive and Smart Europe

Satellite radar-based fertilisation maps, Poland

This project leverages satellite radar imagery to create precise and reliable monitoring of crop growth through mineral fertilisation maps, enhancing precision farming practices.

A Green Europe

AGEO - Atlantic Geohazard Risk Management, Portugal, Spain, France, Ireland, United Kingdom

AGEO brings together scientists, local communities, and governments to address geohazards in the Atlantic region through citizen science, Earth observation, and innovative risk management tools. It demonstrates how to empower local communities to engage in early warning systems and climate challenges.

A Connected Europe

MONOCAB OWL - New mobility on old tracks, Germany

A gyro-stabilized monorail cabin system providing an individual, autonomous, and “on demand” solution – serving as a flexible, socially responsible, and sustainable feeder to public transport. as an on-demand, flexible solution to enhance mobility.

A Social and Inclusive Europe

Early support for families at risk, Czechia

Providing free psychosocial support post-childbirth to ensure women's well-being, connecting health and social services for comprehensive care for post-partum distress.

A Europe Closer to Citizens

Shankill Shared Women's Centre, Ireland, United Kingdom

A dedicated shared space with a vision for a prosperous, more peaceful and cohesive future for women and their families from Protestant and Catholic communities across the region and beyond.

Public Choice Award

AGEO - Atlantic Geohazard Risk Management

Background: Organised by the European Commission since 2008, the RegioStars Awards celebrate Cohesion policy's supported projects showing the impact and inclusiveness of regional development with solutions to common challenges across EU regions. A jury consisting of experts from all over Europe selected 25 outstanding finalists across five key areas, each representing a priority for the EU's regional policy. Those shortlisted were invited to present their final pitch before a jury during the 2025 European Week of Regions and Cities, taking place in Brussels from 13 to 15 October.

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/whats-new/newsroom/16-10-2025-six-eu-funded-projects-receive-the-2025-regiostars-awards-in-brussels_en

Attentato contro Ranucci, la solidarietà di Bruxelles. Metsola: “Non faremo mai un passo indietro”



La notizia scioccante dell'attentato al giornalista d'inchiesta e conduttore di Report Sigfrido Ranucci rimbalza fino al Parlamento europeo. Le delegazioni del Partito Democratico e del Movimento 5 Stelle chiedono un dibattito urgente in Aula la prossima settimana a Strasburgo, la presidente Roberta Metsola esprime solidarietà per il “terribile attacco” e avverte: “La libertà di stampa è il cuore della

democrazia. L'Europa non farà mai un passo indietro”.

Il 16 ottobre, intorno alle 22, due esplosioni hanno distrutto le automobili di Ranucci e quella di sua figlia davanti all'abitazione del giornalista a Campo Ascolano, in località di Pomezia, alle porte di Roma. Fortunatamente, non c'è stato alcun ferito: il giornalista e la figlia si trovavano entrambi in casa e in quel momento nessuno si trovava nei paraggi della deflagrazione. Secondo le prime ricostruzioni, un ordigno rudimentale con un chilo di esplosivo sarebbe stato posizionato tra l'auto di Ranucci e il cancello della casa.

Questa mattina Ranucci, dopo aver sporto denuncia, ha affermato: "Quello di stanotte è stato un salto di qualità preoccupante perché proprio davanti casa, dove l'anno scorso erano stati trovati dei proiettili". Il giornalista e volto della trasmissione d'inchiesta Report ha ricordato che "c'è una lista infinita di minacce, di varia natura, che ho ricevuto e di cui ho sempre informato l'autorità giudiziaria".

Solidarietà al giornalista italiano @SigfridoRanucci. Sollevata che lui e sua figlia siano rimasti illesi dopo il terribile attacco. La libertà di stampa è il cuore della democrazia. L'Europa non farà mai un passo indietro. pic.twitter.com/QWpd8WoNR7
Roberta Metsola (@EP_President) October 17, 2025

Condanne arrivano anche dalla Commissione europea, dove il portavoce Markus Lammert, chiarisce che "nell'UE non c'è posto per le intimidazioni ai giornalisti", i quali, ha voluto sottolineare, "dovrebbero poter lavorare ovunque liberamente e svolgere il loro importante lavoro in modo sicuro e libero da minacce". Perché, ricorda, "questo è il cuore della libertà di stampa".

L'Unione europea si è dotata di una nuova legislazione, il Media Freedom Act, pienamente in vigore dall'8 agosto 2025. Il regolamento, tra le altre cose, prevede maggiori tutele per i professionisti dell'informazione. La presidente del Parlamento europeo, nel giorno dell'entrata in vigore delle nuove norme, aveva dichiarato: "In Europa e in tutto il mondo, i giornalisti devono essere protetti e liberi di svolgere il proprio lavoro senza timori, minacce o interferenze". L'episodio di Ranucci è un tuffo nel passato, anche per la maltese Metsola: la prossima settimana, l'Eurocamera consegnerà il premio Daphne Caruana Galizia, riconoscimento annuale per il giornalismo d'inchiesta istituito dopo l'uccisione della giornalista maltese, nel 2017, proprio con un ordigno che fece esplodere la sua automobile.

<https://www.eunews.it/2025/10/17/attentato-contro-ranucci-la-solidarieta-di-bruxelles-metsola-non-faremo-mai-un-passo-indietro/>



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