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Corporate content on communication for outreach networks

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To keep you in the big picture

A beautiful journey

Last week successful **young applicants aged 18 who had applied for the 35,324 travel passes** under the [DiscoverEU](#) March 2023 application got the good news; they will travel alone or in a group of up to 5 people between 15 June 2023 and 30 September 2024. The participants will travel **by** rail, with some exceptions to allow those living on islands or in remote areas to participate. As part of the [Erasmus+ programme](#), this application round was open to young people, born between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005, from EU Member States as well as those from Erasmus+ associated countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye). Even more opportunities to strengthen the learning dimension of the action are available to the young participants such as pre-departure information trainings or [meet-ups](#) throughout Europe. More information on the figures per country are available [here](#).

Taking a turn for the better

Our second item this week is about the **state of the European economy**. Recent data suggest that it continues to show resilience in a challenging global context. Lower energy prices, abating supply constraints and a strong labour market supported moderate growth in the first quarter of 2023, dispelling fears of a recession. Upward revisions for the euro area are of a similar magnitude, with GDP growth now expected at 1.1% and 1.6% in 2023 and 2024 respectively. On the back of persisting core price pressures, inflation has also been revised upwards compared to the winter, to 5.8% in 2023 and 2.8% in 2024 in the euro area. More information is available in a [press release](#) online.

ABC to an unprecedented reform

Sticking with the economy, here is a piece for those of you who want to know more about the Commission proposals for the **most comprehensive reform of the EU's system of economic coordination since the aftermath of the economic and financial crisis**. Some background: Given the tight economic links between EU countries, it has been essential to coordinate their economic and fiscal policies. For instance, the EU Treaty requires that EU countries keep their public deficit below 3% of GDP and keep or bring their public debt below 60% of GDP. Over the last decades, these Treaty requirements have been complemented with detailed common rules for the coordination of economic and fiscal policies. Some fiscal rules have been suspended since 2020 as EU countries needed to launch ambitious and costly policies to protect the economy and citizens during the COVID-19 and energy crises. So, what next? As growth has returned to Europe, it is time to come back to regular fiscal rules. However, the situation has changed: EU countries have higher debt, and the current requirement to reduce the excess over 60% of GDP by 1/20th every year is not always realistic. And there is a pressing need to invest massively in the green and digital transitions. Therefore the Commission has made proposals with the objective to keep debt at safe levels and support economic growth in all EU countries, promote sound public finances and facilitate essential reforms and investment. The reform will make the rules simpler, more transparent and easier to enforce. More information on the proposals is available [here](#).

We handpicked for you

In the name of the consumer

Last week saw the Parliament focus on 2 areas with enormous consequences for all of us: Artificial intelligence (AI) and early obsolescence. **MEPs backed draft legislation to improve product labelling and durability and to put a stop to misleading claims**. The Special Committee on AI identified policy options that could unlock AI's potential with regard to health, the environment and climate change and enhance people's quality of life through personalised medicine and create sustainable growth and jobs. And then, there is the Parliament's decisive action against unfair commercial practices, like deceptive environmental claims and early obsolescence. The Council of the EU adopted its own negotiating mandate on 3 May. That means negotiations between the Parliament and the Member states on the final content and wording of the directive can start soon. Read [more](#).

Might wish to share among your networks

Spread the word

- As part of the 2023 edition of the [#EUBeachCleanup campaign](#), DG MARE, together with EEAS and the United Nations are organising the #EUBeachCleanup. It is key to raise awareness about marine pollution, and how our habits impact our ocean. The campaign consists of **clean-up events** organised by institutions (EU Delegations and Representations, United Nations Regional Offices, etc.), NGOs, and citizens wanting to put-up their own event. Target date for this global action is **Saturday 16 September 2023**. You can also find all of this on the [campaign's website](#). Contact: EU-Beach-Clean@ec.europa.eu
- Here is a quick reminder about the **European Parliament grants for Citizens' Engagement activities**. You may recall that the grants are targeting actions or events implemented on a local, national or transnational level (of up to five Member States) and on an online or offline basis by a legal. This call for proposals provides for **two rounds of applications, with deadline 25 May 2023 at midnight (first round)** and 28 September 2023 (second round). To find out more about the grants, please visit [Grants for communication actions \(europa.eu\)](#).