

# EUROPE DIRECT WEEKLY

*Monday morning news for the Europe Direct network*

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## Weekly message from DG COMM

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Dear European EDICs,

We start this month of March with no need to remind ourselves of the sad first anniversary this represents for the world. Last week's developments in the EU, however, allow you to project your outreach efforts beyond the daily struggle of the pandemic.

If there is one thing that allows citizens to raise their head above such struggles, is how we ensure a sustainable world when we will be out of all this: well, take a look at this Newsletter and you will see that on Wednesday the Commission adopted a landmark **strategy on adaptation to climate change**, and just two days before the EU together with the UN launched a **global alliance on circular economy** and resource efficiency.

The best way to restore credible hope, is looking ahead. Of course do not overlook last week's videoconference of EU Leaders, which took place amid signs of a timid decrease in Covid numbers and fears of a third wave. There, for the first time, an explicit discussion took place on **vaccination certificates**, and while Member States were still divided (e.g. along the tourism divide), there was a clear plan to continue working on this concept.

In all this: please remember that Commission officials are understandably still unable to go on mission, so please check with your schools if there is any appetite for a **virtual Back-to-School** mission, which many colleagues of mine would be very glad to do, and tell your Representation!

Have a nice week!

## The big picture

- **Forging a climate-resilient Europe:** On 24 February the Commission adopted a [new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change](#), setting out the pathway to prepare for the unavoidable impacts of climate change. The aim of the strategy is to shift the focus from understanding the problem to developing solutions, and to move from planning to implementation. [More here](#).
- **An alliance made to last:** On 22 February the EU, teaming up with the UN launched the [Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency \(GACERE\)](#). The Alliance is one of the deliverables of the [EU's Circular Economy Action Plan](#) adopted by the Commission in March 2020 as part of the [European Green Deal](#). GACERE aims to provide a global impetus for initiatives related to the circular economy transition, resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production.
- **Let's get down to business:** The Commission has proposed to set up 10 [new European Partnerships](#) between the EU, Member States and/or the industry. The goal is to speed up the transition towards a green, climate neutral and digital Europe, and to make European industry more resilient and competitive. The EU will provide nearly €10 billion of funding that the partners will match with at least an equivalent amount of investment.

## What's in it for you?

- **HELP PROMOTE** the [Commission's first-stage consultation on the rights of platform workers](#). You might have heard about this growing part of the population who are increasingly being involved in jobs via a digital labour platform. While these jobs provide extra income for people who might have more difficulties to access the traditional labour market and those who value the flexibility of platform work, it can also lead to new forms of precariousness. The Commission has launched the consultation with trade unions and employers' organisations in a bid to improve the conditions of all these people.
- **WE COUNT ON YOUR EFFORTS** to communicate the [new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change](#) and bring it to all your audiences in a way relevant to their needs!



European Union, EC Audiovisual Service, Malý Bor mires, Czechia., Date: 19/09/2020

## Life of our network

- **Reminder:** The deadline for the hub EDICs to map stakeholders to be involved in the Conference on the future of Europe debates is approaching. **4 March** is to be kept on the radar!
- **“When winter comes, can spring be far behind?”:** **Честита Баба Марта, Mărțișor fericit, Μάρτης** to our fellow EDICs in **Bulgaria, Romania and Greece** where 1 March is a very special day. On this day people in the Balkans make a wish while a *martenitsa* is being tied around their hands. The *martenitsa* is a small piece of adornment, made of white and red yarn, usually in the form of two dolls. It is taken off with the first signs of spring - the first swallow or stork and tied on a tree in blossom to bring prosperity and let your wish come true. Don't miss the chance to call your fellow EDICs in BG, RO and GRE and get your own *martenitsa* to make your wish.



Photo of "martenitsa": Author: Lyudmil Valkov, Bulgaria, 01/03/2021.  
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### Vaccination campaign news



- [Statement of the members of the European Council on Covid-19 and health, 25 February](#)
- Fighting Covid-19 Disinformation Monitoring Programme – [reports on January actions](#)
- Stay tuned to the [Commission new page on vaccination](#)

## Looking ahead

- **Wednesday 3/03:** College meeting: One year since the outbreak of COVID-19: fiscal policy response; Action plan on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights; Recommendation on an effective active support to employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE); Strategy on the rights of persons with disabilities; Proposal for a Directive establishing minimum requirements on pay transparency to strengthen the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value between men and women