

## **Agenda of the European Commission** ***7 – 11 October 2013***

**Background notes from the Spokespersons' service for journalists.  
The European Commission reserves the right to make changes.**

### **Monday 7 – Thursday 10 October, OPEN DAYS:**

Europe's Regions and Cities Taking Off for 2020 and investing in growth

### **Tuesday 8 October:**

The Commission presents together with the OECD results of the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC)

## **Monday 7 – Thursday 10 October, OPEN DAYS:**

### **Europe's Regions and Cities Taking Off for 2020 and investing in growth**

#### **The news:**

The 11th annual 'OPEN DAYS – European week of regions and cities' will be held from 7-10 October 2013, gathering together policymakers, politicians and experts to debate the key issues facing EU Regional Policy today. More than 5,500 regional and urban representatives from across Europe will be sharing views and approaches on how the next generation of investments under EU regional policy can get Europe back on the path to growth, creating jobs and boosting competitiveness. Under the banner of 'Europe's regions and cities taking off for 2020' this year, with 100 workshops addressing the following themes:

- Managing change 2014-2020;
- Synergies and cooperation;
- Challenges and solutions.

#### **The event:**

José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission will open the four day event with a keynote speech on the achievements and objectives of EU Regional Policy, before a high-level debate hosted by Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for Regional Policy, and Ramón Luis Valcárcel, President of the Committee of the Regions. President Valcárcel and Commissioner Hahn will kick start the event with a press roundtable on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 13:30 in the Committee of the Regions.

#### Other highlights include:

- A full-day workshop on October 8<sup>th</sup> in the Charlemagne building, Brussels, showcasing the 19 finalists competing in four categories for the [2014 RegioStars Awards](#)
- Presentation of '*Quality of life in European Cities*' - Perception Survey - 41.000 citizens, interviewed in 79 cities, were asked for their views on various aspects of urban life: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 16:30 – 17:15 in the Berlaymont, Schuman room
- '[100 EUrban solutions](#)' outdoor exhibition inaugurated by Commissioner Hahn and Rudi Vervoort, Minister-President of the Brussels-Capital Region at 17:00 on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> at Place Jean Rey, Brussels and several networking events taking place in the evening of 8 October in other 12 venues across the exhibition route; and
- The winners of the 2014 "[Europe in my region](#)" photo competition, hailing from Greece, Hungary and Malta will be presented with their prizes by Commissioner Hahn on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 in the Charlemagne building.

Available on EbS

#### **The sources:**

- A press release is available [here](#).
- A full media programme is available [here](#).
- Open Days 2012: [www.opendays.europa.eu](http://www.opendays.europa.eu)

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***Tuesday 8 October:***

**The European Commission presents together with the OECD  
results of the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC)**

**The news:**

On 8 October the Commission will release jointly with the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) the results of the Survey of Adult Skills.

The Survey will for the first time provide comparable data on literacy, numeracy and problem solving skills for the adult population in 24 countries. The results highlight striking differences in skills levels between countries.

The findings confirm that a high proportion of the European workforce has a low level of skills, which is likely to present major challenges for European countries as the labour market demand for skills increases in the future. Furthermore the results suggest that many European adults cannot use ICT effectively.

The survey results are expected to become a landmark for assessing adult skills, just as the well-known PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) for 15 years old pupils.

**The background:**

The Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), administrated by the OECD, assesses literacy, numeracy and problem solving skills of the participating countries' population in the age group 16-65. The first survey (2008-2013) covered 24 countries, including 17 EU countries. The Survey of Adult Skills is the result of a close cooperation between the OECD, the European Commission and participating countries.

**The event:**

Androulla Vassiliou, the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, together with Angel Gurría, the Secretary-General of the OECD, will present the main findings of the Survey and elaborate on their importance for education and training policies in Europe. Press releases, country notes, reports and executive summaries will be available on the day.

Available on EbS

**The sources:**

- Information on the Survey of Adult Skills: <http://www.oecd.org/site/piaac/surveyofadultskills.htm>
- The European Commission's website on education and training: [http://ec.europa.eu/education/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/index_en.htm)
- Commissioner Vassiliou's webpage: [http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/vassiliou/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/vassiliou/index_en.htm)
- Information on Secretary-General Gurría: <http://www.oecd.org/about/secretary-general/>

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