



NEWS FROM THE COMMISSION MIDDAY BRIEFING  
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Friday, 03 February, 2012

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**[Safety of passenger ships: EU Transport Commissioner receives commitment from Cruise industry to fully engage in review of passenger ship safety rules at EU and IMO](#)**

Vice-President Siim Kallas, European Commissioner for Transport today was briefed by the board of the European Cruise Council about cruise ship safety. Vice President Kallas announced that the Commission strongly supports a passenger ship safety review at IMO (International Maritime Organisation) to ensure that European citizens can expect state of the art safety measures in place - no matter where they board a passenger ship. The EU Transport Commissioner outlined the need for a twin-track approach with the IMO. Following its ongoing passenger ship safety review, the EU will either propose re-enforcing recent IMO standards or propose new EU minimum norms, some of which could form the basis for new IMO standards.

**[Winners announced in EU Young Translators' Contest](#)**

The names of the 27 winners of the European Commission's annual Young Translators' Contest, known as 'Juvenes Translatores', are published today (see full list below). A winner for each EU country was selected from among more than 3 000 secondary school pupils in total who sat the contest in November 2011. The number of entrants was up by more than 400 compared to last year and was the highest since the launch of the contest in 2007. The winners will be invited to Brussels on 27 March to receive their prizes and to meet translators at work in the Commission.

**[Volume retail trade down by 0.4% in euro area](#)**

In December 2011, compared with November 2011, the volume of retail trade fell by 0.4% in the **euro area** (EA17), while it rose by 0.3% in the **EU27**. In November retail trade decreased by 0.4% and 0.2% respectively.

**[European Union helps Nigeria to consolidate peace in the Niger delta and ensure better governance and improved service delivery](#)**

The European Commission has approved funding for projects that will work towards further stability and security in the Niger delta region and give young people there better perspectives for their lives. Programmes will provide training and employment for young people, help in fighting corruption and organised crime and improve access to drinking water and better sanitation. The EU will also strengthen the Nigerian justice sector and the electoral cycle and support governance reforms. One important aspect of the new support will be to

strengthen **Nigeria's capacity to manage its own funds**. Full text available here: [http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/piebalgs/headlines/news/2012/02/20120203\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/piebalgs/headlines/news/2012/02/20120203_en.htm)

## OTHER INFORMATION

- [Message of condolences from President Barroso to Mr Bronisław Komorowski, President of the Republic of Poland, following the passing away of the Polish Nobel prize winner poet Ms Wisława Szymborska - rediffusion](#)
- [Memo "EU response to football tragedy in Egypt"](#)
- [Memo: "Tribute to Wisława Szymborska" – rediffusion](#)
- [Speech by Vice President Rehn: "A new stability culture in Europe" – rediffusion](#)
- [Speech by Commissioner Barnier: "Time for a Single Market 2.0!" – rediffusion](#)
- [Speech by Commissioner Barnier: "Young Europeans have a lot to gain from the Single Market" – rediffusion](#)
- [Speech by Commissioner Andor: "The Jobs Challenge in the EU and the US – What Can We Learn from Each Other" - rediffusion](#)

Source: European Commission - News from the Communication Directorate General's midday briefing. --- [\*\*For more information\*\*](#) [\*click here\*](#)

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