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Subject: Davos readout Covered by article 4.1.b (personal data)
Date: jeudi 24 janvier 2019 16:41:09

Dear all,

Quick readout of a day and a half of sub-zero speed-dating in Davos below.

Thanks to [REDACTED] for putting this jigsaw together over the last two weeks.

Covered by article 4.1.b (personal data)

Best,
Simon

Bilaterals:

- CH (Maurer and Berset, separately): [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] On the Framework Agreement, he relayed COM position that negotiations are over but there can perhaps be clarifications etc; however the ball is first of all in the CH court [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Same messages relayed to CH media.

Covered by article 4.3.1 (decision making process)

- NZ (Grant Robertson, finance minister): digital taxation (explaining state of play); EU-NZ FTA; explanation of NZ Govt's innovative "wellbeing budget"

- Soros and Blair: discussions with the two earliest backers of a 'People's Vote' [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Covered by article 4.3.1 (decision making process)

Financial sector (JP Morgan, Bank of America, Standard & Poors):

- Exchanges on EU and US economies and Brexit. Investors see trade tensions as main global risk. Shutdown could have meaningful impact on US growth this year: 800,000 workers not being paid, suppliers on hold, restaurants and retailers near government buildings have lost most of their customers, etc. [REDACTED]

Covered by article 4.1.a (protection of public interest/financial, monetary or economic policy)

- Italy and Brexit seen as main risks in Europe. Rather upbeat about Macron's reform agenda and the increase in attractiveness of FR as an investment location [REDACTED]

Covered by article 4.1.a (protection of public interest/financial, monetary or economic policy)

Booking.com

- Courteous, not hostile meeting with Gillian Tans, Booking CEO, in which she gave Pierre an introduction to the company he has referred to in the media several times and expressed opposition to our proposal. Line as expected: taxing revenues not good, EU should be working to welcome businesses like this, help them grow...

Covered by article 4.3.1 (decision making process)

Media:

- Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP, CNN, Swiss radio and TV, BFM Business, La Stampa, Mediaset, Sky TG24, Sky News, Il Sole 24 Ore, RAI, El Economista and Euractiv...

- Two thirds of questions about Brexit, the risk of no deal and the possibility of an extension (PM: ball in UK court, extension possible if certain questions clarified).

- And on euro area economy (Growth still solid, but risks clearly present, forecasts on Feb 7)

- Italian media: what next on IT budget, given slowdown in growth? FR-IT relations in crisis? (Good that we reached agreement, monitoring budgetary execution, appreciation of Conte, Tria; IT-FR clash regrettable, cousins destined to have close ties...)

- Also questions on Spanish budget from Jorge (PM: letter received, positive contacts, looking to avoid new DBP).

Events:

- Europe Outlook: panel with Pierre, Altmaier, Tria, Beatrice Weder di Mauro (CH academic economist), Gillian Tans (Booking CEO), chaired by Thorold Barker of WSJ. Quite good, free-flowing discussion, if quite consensual between the politicians. Pierre on Brexit: "I personally hope that on March 29 we will be in a position where the UK could remain a Member State." Tria on Pierre: "He is a good negotiator, I can confirm..." In case you missed it:

<https://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?ref=I166603>

- Taxation roundtable: closed door discussion with Pierre, DK finance minister, businesses and academics. I was not in the room. [REDACTED]

Covered by article 4.3.1 (decision making process)

Sent from my iPhone