

Monday
30th Oct 2017

euobserver

Search

NEWS / HEADLINE NEWS

EU defends Commissioners' travel costs



Juncker travelled on air taxi with eight other officials (Photo: [Copyright © 2017 European University Institute](#))

By **ANDREW RETTMAN**

BRUSSELS, 10. AUG, 09:28

The European Commission has defended its use of air taxis for international meetings despite costs of tens of thousands of euros.

The revelations came after Spanish NGO Access Info and Belgian magazine Knack published details of commissioners' travel costs for January and February last year, which they had obtained via freedom of information requests.

These showed that commission head Jean-Claude Juncker had spent €25,000 on a plane to Rome, that foreign relations chief Federica Mogherini paid €75,000 on a journey to Baku and Yerevan and that Christos Stylianides, the humanitarian aid commissioner, paid €11,000 for a voyage to Somalia and Turkey, among other destinations.

The NGO is still awaiting information for expenses costs for the rest of the year.

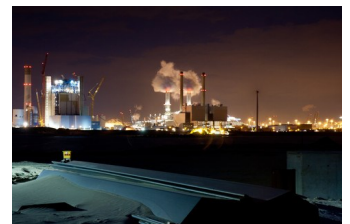
Mina Andreeva, a commission spokeswoman, said in Brussels on Wednesday (9 August) that the Juncker trip involved eight other people and that the cost per person was about €2,900.



MEPs demand Cyprus open up over Russia money laundering

TODAY, 08:46

MEPs have urged Cypriot president Nicos Anastasiades to "correct" the mishandling of a Russia corruption case.



FOCUS

Rotterdam and Oslo compete to set up first CO2 highway

TODAY, 09:22

While Rotterdam's project has received a boost by the political support for carbon storage in the new Dutch coalition deal, Norway's has suffered a setback.

In health care, silicones are the frontrunner.
And that's a good thing.

NEWS

OPINION

AGENDA

FOCUS

STAKEHOLDERS

INVESTIGATIONS

MAGAZINE

SEARCH

FOCUS ON ...

EU PRESIDENCY

NORDIC NEWS

EU & CHINA

HEALTH

DIGITAL AGENDA

LGBTI RIGHTS

EN FRANÇAIS

AUF DEUTSCH

REGISTER

LOGIN

NEWSLETTER

ABOUT US

CORRECTIONS

ADVERTISING



She said the commissioners ought to travel widely because they were the EU's "best ambassadors" and needed to "explain our policy" to EU citizens and further afield.

She noted that they took standard flights when these were available, but that they sometimes had to charter planes when no normal flights matched their agenda, or for "security reasons".

Andreeva added that Juncker seldom travels outside of Brussels, with an average of just over two trips per month, including his monthly attendance at the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

She also defended the commission's decision not to automatically post expenses information online, but to await formal public or press requests, saying the work needed to collate information and to explain it to the public would be too great a burden otherwise.

Andreeva said the Access Info campaign generated 196 requests that were processed in less than six months, but Knack reported its campaign for information on the issue began three years ago.

"We are actually one of the most transparent administrations in the world," she said.

The 28 EU commissioners spent about €500,000 in total on travel in January and February last year - on hotels and flights.

The commission vice-president, Frans Timmermans, was among the lowest spenders with €6,861.

SITE SECTION

[Headline News](#)

RELATED STORIES

[MEP barred from questioning Oettinger on plane trip](#)

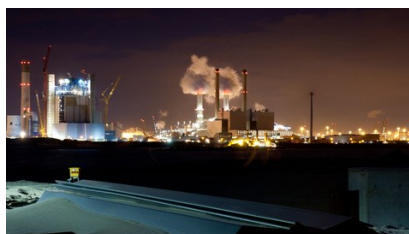
Make contacts all over the world.
Study for an MBA in Brussels.

No. 1 Executive MBA in Belgium
FT Ranking 2016

FT Executive MBA
Ranking 2016

INFO SESSION

VLERICK
BUSINESS
SCHOOL



NEWS IN BRIEF

TODAY, 09:26

Turkey opens new cases against regime critics in Germany

TODAY, 09:22

Polish protester dies after self-immolation

TODAY, 08:58

Deadline looms for Northern Ireland negotiations

TODAY, 08:43

Denmark and UK to connect via world's longest power cable

TODAY, 08:38

Complicated political situation after Iceland elections

27. OCT, 16:35

Tusk warns against use of force in Catalonia

27. OCT, 16:19

Spanish senate approves article 155 for Catalonia

27. OCT, 15:45

Spanish PM calls for calm after Catalan independence declaration

STAKEHOLDERS' HIGHLIGHTS

BIO-BASED INDUSTRIES

Registration for the BBI JU Stakeholder Forum Is Open!

EUROPEAN FREE ALLIANCE

Welcome Catalonia!

ILGA-EUROPE

ILGA-Europe Conference in Warsaw - Media Accreditation Closing Soon!

UNICEF

Growing Number of Unaccompanied Refugee Children in Greece in Need of Shelter

COUNTER BALANCE

Nature Destruction Cannot Be Compensated For, Say NGOs

CES - SILICONES EUROPE

Silicones - Enabling the Next Big Leap in Prosthetics and Health

EU2017EE

Estonia's Unique E-Health: Thousands of Data Fields, One

MEP barred from questioning Oettinger on plane trip

28. NOV 2016, 18:56

The Hungarian Green MEP who uncovered EU Commissioner Oettinger's flight to Budapest on a private plane of a lobbyist was not allowed to ask the German politician on the issue in the EP.



OPINION

The real decision on Czech future will come in January

TODAY, 09:19

The victory of Andrej Babis's party in the general election is only a foretaste of the battle to come for the Czech presidency in January 2018.



Spain 'takes back control' of Catalan government

TODAY, 08:55

Three days after Madrid adopted measures to counter Catalonia's unrecognised declaration of independence, the question is whether the Catalan ministers will show up to work and who the civil servants will take orders from.

FOCUS

Rotterdam and Oslo compete to set up first CO2 highway

TODAY, 09:22

While Rotterdam's project has received a boost by the political support for carbon storage in the new Dutch coalition deal, Norway's has suffered a setback.



MEPs demand Cyprus open up over Russia money laundering

TODAY, 08:46

MEPs have urged Cypriot president Nicos Anastasiades to "correct" the mishandling of a Russia corruption case.



Personal Health Record

MISSION OF CHINA TO THE EU
China Launches First Direct Train From Weihai to Duisburg, Germany

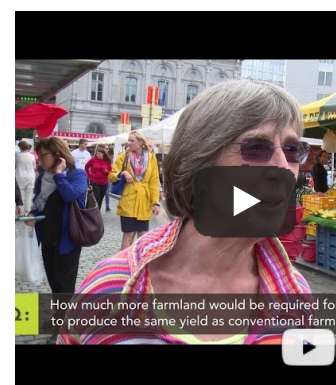
UNESDA SOFT DRINKS EUROPE
Why We're Taking Sugary Drinks Out of EU Schools

MARTENS CENTRE
Registrations for Economic Ideas Forum 2017 Now Open! November 7, Brussels

CENTRE MAURITS COPPIETERS
Media Landscapes: Is a National Communication Agenda Possible?

URBACT
Cities United by Love of Good Food

PRESENTED BY ECPA



LATEST NEWS

TODAY, 09:22
Rotterdam and Oslo compete to set up first CO2 highway

TODAY, 09:19
The real decision on Czech future will come in January

TODAY, 08:55
Spain 'takes back control' of Catalan government

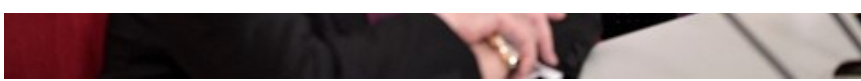
TODAY, 08:46
MEPs demand Cyprus open up over Russia money laundering

27. OCT, 21:02
Cyprus defends reputation on Russia money laundering

27. OCT, 17:55
Catalonia and Nordic Council on agenda This Week

27. OCT, 17:36
Spain and Catalonia reach point of no return

27. OCT, 11:59
Fears for LGBTI staff at Brexit



Cyprus defends reputation on Russia money laundering

27. OCT, 21:02

It said a four-year probe into a high-level case was "open and ongoing", amid calls in the UK to downgrade its international rating.