



Europaneews

Regulatory & Governmental Affairs

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/ Main Topics

- General ■ Bank/Insurance/Tax ■ Enviroment ■ Media/Telecom ■ Competition/SA
- Healthcare ■ Aviation/Transport ■ Foreign Trade ■ Energy ■ Compliance ■ Food/Tobacco

/ Law

■ EU Industrial Strategy

The EC presented its Industrial Strategy, a package of initiatives that aims to realize the digital and green transition together with supporting global competitiveness. Alongside this package of measures, the Commission adopted also a dedicated strategy for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Among the actions foreseen by the strategy there are:

- launch of an Intellectual Property Action Plan;
- strengthening of the global rules on industrial subsidies in the WTO;
- adoption of the International Procurement Instrument;
- modernization and de-carbonization of energy-intensive industries;
- a common European Energy Data Space;
- launch of an EU-wide hydrogen alliance;

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- action plan on crucial raw materials;
- investment in research and deployment of technology in artificial intelligence, 5G, data analytics;
- a new pharmaceutical strategy for the EU;
- further legislation and guidance on green public procurement;
- action plan on the customs union, to reinforce customs controls.

My mid-2020 the Commission will adopt a White Paper to address the distortive effects caused by foreign subsidies in the single market and to tackle foreign access of state-owned companies to EU public procurement. In addition to that, in 2021 the European executive will present a proposal to further strengthen the framework for the screening of foreign direct investment.

With regard to European competition rules, the Commission will continue the ongoing review, including the evaluation of merger control and fitness

check of State aid guidelines. If necessary, the Commission will present a proposal to adapt the European rules in 2021. The European executive already announced that it will present next year revised state aid rules for Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI).

An inclusive Industrial Forum will be set up in the coming months and it will support the Commission to analyze the risks and needs of the different sectors, in order to present more targeted measures.

[New Industrial Strategy – SME Strategy – Action Plan for Better Implementation and Enforcement of the Single Market Rules – Identifying and Addressing Barrier to Single Market](#)

■ Antitrust

The EC published a study on the application of Interchange Fees Regulation (“IFR”) for card-based payment transactions. According to the study, the main objectives of the Regulation have been achieved.

[EC study](#)

■ Circular Economy

The EC presented its new Circular Economy Action Plan, as part of the EU Green Deal. The plan contains a series of initiatives, legislative and non-legislative measures, for the entire life cycle of products. In particular, it includes a revision of EU waste legislation, with new targets to reduce packaging waste and mandatory essential requirements for all packaging; a circular electronics initiative; new rules on the collection and recycling rates of batteries; a revision of the industrial emissions directive.

[New Circular Economy Action Plan – Annex – Staff working document](#)

■ RAPEX Weekly Report

The EC published its weekly report for all dangerous consumer products, with the exception of food, pharmaceutical and medical devices.

[Weekly Overview Report](#)

/ Politics/General

■ EU-China

The EC launched a consultation to evaluate customs cooperation and mutual administrative assistance between the EU and China since the signing of the Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance Agreement in 2004. Contributions can be submitted until 3 April.

[EC dedicated page](#)

■ Capital Markets Union

The High Level Forum on the Capital Markets Union set up by the European Commission published an interim report on the Capital Markets Union.

[Interim report](#)

■ Sustainable Finance

The Technical Expert Group on Sustainable Finance published a report on the EU’s classification of green economic activities and a report on the EU Green Bond Standard. The European Commission will use them to develop rules on green investment qualifications.

[EU Green Bond Standard – TEG Final report of the technical expert](#)

■ Banking and Covid-19

The European Banking Authority released a statement with actions it intends to take in order to reduce the impact of the virus on the sector.

[EBA dedicated page](#)

■ Banking Supervision

The European Banking Authority published its Opinion on the treatment of credit insurance in the prudential framework, calling for the implementation of the final Basel III framework.

[EBA opinion](#)

■ Banking

The European Banking Authority launched a consultation to update the identification methodology of global systemically important institutions. Contributions can be submitted until 5 June.

[EBA consultation paper](#)

■ Clean Energy Package

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators published two decisions on the methodology for

identifying regional electricity crisis scenarios and on the methodology for short-term and seasonal adequacy assessments. Both are part of the implementation of the EU Risk-preparedness Regulation.

[Decision 07/2020](#) – [Decision 08/2020](#)

■ Electricity Market

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators launched two public consultations which aims to integrate the EU balancing markets. Contributions can be submitted until 29 March. The first consultation refers to the methodology for classifying the activation purposes of balancing energy bids; while the other is on further specifying and harmonizing the imbalance settlement.

[Consultation on the classifying methodology](#) – [Consultation on harmonizing the imbalance settlement](#)

/ Decisions

EC Decision of 10 March – PCG / PCC / JV

■ Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products

The EC approved the acquisition of PCC Oxyalkylates Malaysia Sdn. Bhd by Petronas Chemicals Group Berhad and PCC SE.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 09 March – AMEX / GBT

■ Passenger air transport

The EC approved the acquisition of sole control of GBT JerseyCo Limited by American Express Company.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 06 March – TSR Recycling / Sims Metal Management (Certain Recycling Assets)

■ Manufacture of basic metals; waste collection; waste treatment and disposal

The EC approved the acquisition of certain recycling assets of Sims Metal Management Limited by TSR Recycling GmbH & Co. KG and TSR Recycling Holding GmbH.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 06 March – Vodafone Italia / TIM / INWIT JV

■ Telecommunications

The EC approved the proposed acquisition of joint control over INWIT by Telecom Italia and Vodafone, subject to conditions.

[Case information](#)

/ From the OJEU

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration ISQ / Rubis / Rubis Terminal – Case M.9740 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 83/03 – Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Oaktree / RAFI – Case M.9590 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 83/02 – Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration General Real Estate / Apleona Real Estate / Property Management JV – Case M.9665 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 83/01 – Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration ENGIE / Mirova / Predica / JV – Case M.9733 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 82/02 – Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration GHT Mobility / Stadtwerke Düsseldorf / CleverShuttle Düsseldorf – Case M.9647 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 82/01 – Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Acerinox / VDM – Case M.9642 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 78/01 – Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration EQT / Recover – Case M.9713 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 75/01 – Case information](#)

■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration Lagardere Travel Retail / BTA / JV – Case M.9747 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 83/13 – Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration MAIF 2 / PSP / AirTrunk – Case M.9755 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 83/12 – Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration United Group / Bulgarian Telecommunications Company – Case M.9679 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 82/06 – Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration JAB / Jacobs Douwe Egberts – Case M.9788 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 75/06 – Case information](#)

/ Brussels intern

■ European Champions

Among EU Member States the differences of view on the so-called European Champions issue remain high. Eight countries (including Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland and Ireland) sent a letter to Commissioner Vestager stressing the need that *“any review of Europe’s competition rules, including the review of State aid rules and guidance, is based on proven principles, evidence and economic research ...”*, underling that *“any moves to soften and politicise EU*

competition rules would be detrimental for the whole EU”.

■ Privacy and Electronic Communications

The Council Working Party on Telecommunications is still discussing the new proposals of the Presidency on the draft regulation concerning the respect for private life and the protection of personal data in electronic communications, which will repeal Directive 2002/58/EC. Next meeting is scheduled for 19 March.

[Proposal](#)

■ Wind Strategy

The European Commission plans to present its offshore wind strategy in October.

/ Contact

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