



Europaneews

Regulatory & Governmental Affairs

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/ Main Topics

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

/ Law

■ General Block Exemption Regulation

The EC launched a targeted review of the General Block Exemption Regulation, in order to extend its application to national funds involved in some specific areas (research, development & innovation; financing and investment operations; European territorial cooperation) under a limited set of conditions. Contributions can be submitted until 27 September. The Commission aims to adopt the final text in time for the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

[EC dedicated page](#)

■ Energy Union

The Council adopted its conclusions on the future of energy systems in the EU. The document identifies a set of priorities for future policy-making aimed at

ensuring the energy transition towards a competitive, secure and sustainable energy system.

[Council Conclusions](#)

■ Artificial Intelligence

The High-level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence, the independent group set by the European Commission in June 2018, released its policy and investment recommendations for trustworthy AI, which are addressed to EU Institutions and Member States.

[AI HLEG Recommendations](#)

■ Chemicals Policy Strategy

The Council adopted a political guidance on the development of a sustainable EU chemicals policy strategy, addressing in particular the topics of REACH,

endocrine disruptors, nanomaterials and pharmaceuticals.

[Council Conclusions](#)

■ Chemical Safety

The EC released its findings of the fitness check of the most relevant chemicals legislation, with the exclusion of REACH.

[EC Report](#) – [Accompanying document I](#) – [Accompanying document II](#) – [Accompanying document III](#)

■ REACH

The EC presented an action plan to address the lack of compliance in registration dossiers. In particular it contains a proposal to amend REACH in order to raise the current 5% minimum target for compliance checks to 20% of registration dossiers in each tonnage band. The proposal is expected to be adopted by the end of the year.

[Action Plan](#)

■ Crowdfunding Platforms

The Council adopted its position on two proposals that aim at harmonizing the minimum requirements on crowd-funding platforms and on investor protection rules. The two proposals will set out a new regulatory framework for the operation of these platforms. The European Parliament adopted its position last March;

therefore the co-legislators can now start inter-institutional negotiations on the texts.

[Council position on the proposal for a Regulation on European Crowd-funding Service Providers](#) – [Council position on the proposal for a Directive on markets in financial instruments](#)

■ EU-Vietnam Trade Agreement

The Council approved the EU-Vietnam Trade and Investment Agreements, paving the way for their conclusion. Most likely this Sunday EU Commissioner for Trade will sign the trade agreement, which will eliminate nearly all customs duties on goods and remove technical obstacles, such as those in the car sector. Next step is the vote by the European Parliament. Once the lawmakers have given their consent, the trade agreement can be officially concluded and enter into force, while the investment protection agreement still needs to be ratified by Member States.

[Guide to the Trade and Investment Agreements](#) – [Trade and Investment Agreements](#)

■ 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

■ Competition EU-ASEAN

The first EU-ASEAN Competition Week was held in Malaysia with the aim to advance cooperation on competition policy and enforcement between the two parties. This is part of the Competition Cooperation Project, a five-year programme funded by the EU in order to offer technical cooperation to competition authorities in Asia.

■ Energy Communities

The Council of European Energy Regulators published its Report on Regulatory Aspects of Self-Consumption and Energy Communities.

[CEER Report](#)

■ Electricity System Operation

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators published its decision on the methodology for

assessing the relevance of assets for outage coordination, based on the EU Regulation on System Operation in electricity.

[ACER decision](#)

■ **Transmission System Operators**

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators published its decision on the methodology for coordinating operational security analysis for all Transmission System Operators.

[ACER decision](#)

■ **Euro**

The European Fiscal Board published its yearly assessment of the general orientation of fiscal policy in the euro area for 2020.

[EFB Assessment](#)

■ **Banking**

The European Banking Authority published the 2020 EU-wide stress test draft methodology, templates and template guidance.

[EBA dedicated page](#)

■ **Payment Services Directive**

The European Banking Authority published its Opinion on the elements of strong customer authentication under the revised Payment Services Directive.

[EBA opinion](#)

■ **EU Budget**

The EC published its 2018 Annual Management and Performance Report, which highlights the concrete results achieved by the EU budget in terms of creating jobs and growth.

[2018 Annual Management and Performance Report for the EU Budget](#)

■ **European Industry**

The EC presented its final report on the European industry, with recommendations on the future of the EU policy strategy towards 2030.

[Report](#)

■ **Dual Food Quality**

The EC published the results of a pan-European study and investigation on food products. The outcome of the study provides a basis for discussion of dual quality in the Union. At the same time, the Commission launched a new call for proposals to strengthen consumer organisations's capacities to identify potentially misleading practices. Deadline for applications is November 6.

[EU report results – Annex – Call for proposals](#)

/ Decisions

EC Decision of 27 June – IBM / Red Hat

■ **Computer programming activities**

The EC approved the acquisition of Red Hat by IBM.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 26 June – DP World / P&O Group

■ **Cargo handling; sea and coastal freight water transport**

The EC approved the acquisition of Dubai Ferries Holding FZE ("P&O Group") by DP World FZE, part of the DP World PLC group.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 26 June – Canon / Toshiba Medical Systems Corporation

■ Manufacture of medical and dental instruments and supplies

The EC fined Canon for implementing its acquisition of Toshiba Medical Systems Corporation (TMSC) before notification and approval by the Commission.

[Case information](#)

EC Investigation – Broadcom

■ Manufacture of communication equipment

The EC opened a formal antitrust investigation to assess whether Broadcom may be restricting competition through exclusivity practices.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 25 June – MIRA / BCI / IGH

■ Distribution of gaseous fuels through mains

The EC approved the acquisition of Innogy Grid Holdings a.s. (“IGH”) by Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets (Europe) Limited (“MIRA”) and British

Columbia Investment Management Corporation (“BCI”).

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 21 June – Orange / SecureLink

■ Wholesale of information and communication equipment; other information technology and computer service activities

The EC approved the acquisition by Orange S.A. of SL Bidco B.V. (“SecureLink”).

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 21 June – Harris Corporation / L3 Technologies

■ Manufacture of communication equipment; manufacture of optical instruments; manufacture of weapons and ammunition

The EC approved the proposed acquisition of L3 Technologies by Harris Corporation, subject to conditions.

[Case information](#)

/ From the OJEU

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration PAI Partners / Areas Worldwide – Case M.9373 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 217/02 – Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration EQT / Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales – Case M.9392 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 217/01 – Case information](#)

■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration EQT Fund Management / Nestle Skin Health – Case M.9412 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 217/11 – Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Apollo Management / Ares / JV – Case M.9400 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 217/10 – Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration BPCE / Auchan / Oney Bank – Case M.9366 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 217/09 – Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Porsche Holding Salzburg / SIVA / Soauto – Case M.9389 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 217/08 – Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Goldman Sachs / B&B Hotels – Case M.9404 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 212/03 – Case information](#)

/ Brussels intern

■ Vertical Block Exemption Regulation

Before the Summer break, the European Commission is expected to publish the summary of the contributions received to its public consultation on the current Vertical Block Exemption Regulation, which expires on 31 May 2022. The European executive will have to decide whether to let the regulation end, prolong or revise it.

■ Energy Work Programme

Finland will take over the Council Presidency on 1 July. The programme of the country for the next six months focuses in particular on finding an agreement on an EU commitment to climate neutrality. Investments in the green transition and in the development of innovative technologies have a major role to play according to the country.

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