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Main Topics

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

LAW

■ Foreign Investment Screening

The Council adopted the regulation establishing a framework for the screening of foreign direct investments into the EU, thus concluding the legislative process on the proposal. The new rules will create a cooperation mechanism where Member States and the EC will be able to exchange information and raise concerns related to specific investments. The regulation will be published in the EU Official Journal on 21 March 2019 and it will enter into force twenty days after its publication. Member States will then have 18 months to put in place the necessary arrangements for the application of this new mechanism.

[Regulation establishing a framework for the screening of foreign direct investments into the Union](#)

■ Cross-border Payments Regulation

The Council adopted the final text of the Cross-border Payments Regulation, as agreed during the inter-institutional negotiations with the European Parliament.

The new rules will align the costs of cross-border payments in euros between euro and non-euro countries. Most of the provisions will become applicable as of 15 December 2019.

[Regulation on certain charges on cross-border payments in the Union and currency conversion charges](#)

■ Capital Markets Union

The Council and the European Parliament reached a political agreement on new rules to make it cheaper and simpler for SMEs to access public markets, through a new category of trading venue, the so-called “SME Growth Markets”. The proposal will amend the Market Abuse Regulation (MAR) and the Prospectus Regulation. The two co-legislators will have to formally adopt the agreement.

The agreed text will be available soon.

[EC proposal for a regulation amending the MAR – EC delegated regulation on conditions to promote the use of SME growth markets](#)

■ Tyre Labelling Scheme

The Council agreed to a general approach on the proposal for a regulation on the labelling of tyres with respect to fuel efficiency and other essential parameters. The new rules will replace Regulation 1222/2009 and will update the tyre label, including information on snow and ice performance on the label, setting requirements for internet and distance selling, and improving enforcement by creating an obligation to register tyres in the product database established under Regulation 2017/1369. Once the Euro-

pean Parliament has adopted its position on the proposal, inter-institutional negotiations can start.

[Council general approach](#)

■ 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

■ Credit Institutions

The European Banking Authority launched a consultation on the updated Guidelines on harmonised definitions and templates for the reporting of funding plans. Contributions can be submitted until 5 June.

[EBA consultation paper](#)

■ Banking

The European Banking Authority published its final Guidelines on the estimation of loss given default (LGD) appropriate for conditions of an economic downturn.

[EBA Guidelines](#)

■ Circular Economy

The EC published a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan, which was adopted in December 2015. A full state of play of the implementation of action plan is presented in the accompanying Staff Working Document.

[EC report – Staff Working Document](#)

DECISIONS

EC Decision of 07 March – American Securities / Belfor Holdings

■ Remediation activities and other waste management services; repair of other equipment

The EC approved the acquisition of sole control over BELFOR Holdings Inc. by American Securities LLC.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 07 March – Total /Chevron Denmark

■ Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas

The EC approved the acquisition of Chevron Denmark Inc. by Total Holdings USA.

[Case information](#)

EC Investigation – E.ON / Innogy

■ Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply

The EC opened an in-depth investigation to assess the proposed acquisition by E.ON of Innogy.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 06 March – Cross-border access to pay-TV

■ Television programming and broadcasting activities; motion picture, video and TV programme production

The EC accepted the commitments offered by Disney, NBC Universal, Sony Pictures, Warner Bros. and Sky regarding certain clauses in film licensing contracts for pay-TV with Sky UK.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 05 March – Investindustrial / Natra

■ **Manufacture of cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery; wholesale of coffee, tea, cocoa and spices**

The EC approved the acquisition of Natra S.A. by Investindustrial VI L.P.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 04 March – Occupants Safety Systems II

■ **Manufacture of other parts and accessories for motor vehicles**

The EC fined Autoliv and TRW for breaching EU antitrust rules in two cartels for the supply of car seatbelts, airbags and steering wheels to European car producers.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 01 March – Kongsberg Gruppen / Rolls–Royce Commercial Marine

■ **Repair and maintenance of ships and boats; manufacture of transport equipment**

The EC approved the acquisition by Kongsberg Gruppen ASA of Rolls-Royce plc’s commercial marine products, systems and aftermarket services business (“Rolls-Royce Commercial Marine”).

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 01 March – CD&R / FHI

■ **Food and beverage service activities**

The EC approved the acquisition of FH Investments Limited (“FHI”) by Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, LLC (“CD&R”).

[Case information](#)

FROM THE OJEU

■ **Non-opposition to concentrations**

Non-opposition to the notified concentration The Carlyle Group / StandardAero – Case M.9264 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 89/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration CVC / April – Case M.9273 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 89/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration CommScope / ARRIS – Case M.9226 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 83/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Engie / Michelin / Region AURA / CDC / Hymplison – Case M.9256 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 79/02](#) – [Case information](#)

■ **Prior notification of concentrations**

Prior notification of the concentration DXC Technology Company / Luxoft Holding, Inc. – Case M.9280 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 85/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Carlyle / TA Associates / Weiman – Case M.9302 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 83/12](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration LG Electronics / Lufthansa Technik / JV – Case M.9185 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 83/11](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration ArcelorMittal / CLN / Ilva SSCs – Case M.9317 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 83/10](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration MUTB / CFSGAM – Case M.9254 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 83/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration SEGRO / PSPIB / Wroclaw Site – Case M.9286 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 79/06](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration SEGRO / PSPIB / Oignies Site – Case M.9285 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 79/05](#) – [Case information](#)

BRUSSELS INTERN

■ Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction

EU Energy Ministers held a policy debate on the Commission's Communication "*A Clean Planet for All*", published last November. Several delegations underlined the crucial role of new technology solutions in the clean energy transition and the need to invest in research and development.

[Background paper for policy debate](#)

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