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- Bank/Insurance/Tax
- Environment
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- Competition/SA
- Healthcare
- Aviation
- Foreign Trade
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LAW

■ Benchmarks for financial instruments

The Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER) agreed, on behalf of the Council, on the negotiating mandate with regard to the proposed Regulation. The Committee also invited the Latvian Presidency to start negotiations with the EP as soon as possible, in order to reach an agreement at first reading. The latest compromise proposal found the support of all the Member States. At the EP, the report of the Committee on Economic Affairs is still pending, it is expected to be voted in early March.

[Text proposal](#)

■ RAPEX Weekly Report

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

[This Week's Report](#)

■ Money laundering

The Council approved the agreement with the EP. For the adoption of the package (at second reading), it is now necessary the final endorsement by the EP in plenary. Member States will then have two years to transpose the directive into national law, while the regulation will be directly applicable. The directive and regulation will strengthen EU rules against money laundering, in line with the approach followed at international level.

[Political agreement on the package](#) – [Declarations by Member States](#)

■ Origin labelling of meat in processed foods

The EP in plenary adopted the resolution with which it urges the EC to follow up its report of 2013 with legislative proposals. The objective of the Parliament is to make it

mandatory to state the country of origin of meat used in processed foods.

[EC 2013 Report](#) – [EP Resolution](#)

■ EP Special Committee on tax rulings

The EP in plenary voted in favour of the establishment of a special Parliamentary Committee which will examine tax rulings and similar measures in Member States (as far back as 1 January 1991) and propose measures to combat tax evasion in Europe. The Committee will consist of 45 members and is established for six months (with the possibility of extension). The initial proposal of some Members of the Parliament was to create an “inquiry committee”, which would have had also the power to access national

documents, but such a body would have created the risk of overlapping with the Commission’s investigations into whether tax arrangements for multinationals violate competition rules.

■ Aircraft operators covered by ETS

The EC updated the list of aircraft operators covered by the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). The new list was published in the Official Journal of 10 February. The next steps under EU legislation are for these operators to report their emissions from intra-European activities during 2013-2014, by the end of March 2015.

[Commission Regulation 2015/180](#)

POLITICS/GENERAL

■ Regional Energy Market Integration Initiatives

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) published the last edition of the Regional Initiatives Report on progress made in the electricity and gas integration at the regional and cross-regional level in 2014. The report also presents the challenges ahead.

[ACER Report](#)

■ Final Opinion on Chromium VI in toys

The Non-food Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) of the EC published the final Opinion assessing the safety levels of chromium VI in toys. According to the study, the current migration limits should be based on a lower value.

[SCHER Opinion](#)

■ Economic Governance Discussion

During the last EU Summit, the President of the EC, Mr Juncker, presented a paper on the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). The document has been prepared in cooperation with the President of the European Council, the President of the Eurogroup and the President of the European Central Bank and it is a first step in view of the Report on the future of the EMU foreseen for June. Member States are invited to contribute to the debate which focuses mainly on the possibility of having a special budget for the Eurozone and even separate institutions.

[Analytical Note](#)

■ Capital Requirements

The European Central Bank published the decision on the conditions under which credit institutions are permitted to include interim or year-end profits in Common Equity Tier 1 capital in accordance with Article 26(2) of Capital Requirements Regulation.

[ECB Decision](#)

■ Passenger Name Records

The Members of the EP asked for an adoption of the EU Passenger Name Record by the end of the year. The request is included in the Resolution on the Anti-terrorism measures adopted at this week’s plenary. The EP also urged Member States to make faster progress on the Data Protection Package, so that negotiations for the two proposals could proceed in parallel and at the end having a full set of data protection rules.

[EP Resolution on Anti-terrorism measures](#)

■ Bank’s Business Model

The European Banking Authority published a report providing a global overview of the potential implications for business models resulting from the collective implementation of the regulatory measures developed recently.

[EBA Report](#)

■ Central/East/South Europe Gas Connectivity

A 1st meeting of the so called “Central East South Europe Gas Connectivity High Level Group” was held this week in Sofia. The Vice-President of the Commission in charge of

Energy Union and the Commissioner for Energy together with representatives from Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia discussed the establishment of a regional priority infrastructure roadmap. A concrete Action Plan will be adopted by June and it will have a specific focus on interconnections.

■ TTIP – EU proposal on regulatory cooperation

After last round of negotiations, the EC published the EU legal textual proposal on regulatory cooperation. One of the main aspects of the proposal is the establishment of a new (intergovernmental) regulatory body which will identify priorities in the regulatory area. This proposed body would have different and ad hoc configurations depending on regulatory sector and draw personnel from existing regulators from both sides of the Atlantic. Last round of talks was focused on regulatory aspects and the two parties promised to table proposal on regulatory convergence before April. At the next round negotiators intend to work on the basis of a consolidated text for the regulatory cooperation chapter. Before the Summer there will be two additional comprehensive rounds of negotiations and in addition to that, there will be inter-sessional talks, especially in the sectoral area, where negotiators are working to identify possibly concrete outcomes that could be achieved.

[Factsheet](#) – [EU legal text](#) – [Overview position](#)

■ 3rd edition of REMIT Q&A

The third edition of questions and answers concerning the EC Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1348/2014 and REMIT Regulation 1227/2011 has been published. [ACER documents](#)

■ Food Contact Materials

The Scientific Committee of the European Food Safety Authority published an opinion on food contact materials.

[EFSA Scientific Opinion](#)

■ Allergenic Foods and Food Ingredients for Labelling Purposes

The Scientific Committee of the European Food Safety Authority published an opinion on the evaluation of allergenic foods and food ingredients for labelling purposes.

[EFSA Scientific Opinion](#)

■ US-EU Financial Market Regulatory Dialogue

Representatives of the EU and US met in Washington for the biannual US-EU Financial Market Regulatory Dialogue and discuss key regulatory topics including the implementation of Basel III capital, leverage, derivatives reforms, benchmarks and developments on cross-border resolution. Special attention has been dedicated to the regime of equivalence for derivatives. The next meeting will take place in Brussels in July. The EU intends to include regulatory convergence on financial services in the TTIP discussions, even though for the US this bilateral dialogue together with the WTO environment represent the best way to address all the issues around financial market.

[Joint statement](#)

DECISIONS

ECJ, AG Opinion of 12 Feb. – C-583/13

■ Deutsche Bahn and Others v Commission

The Advocate General urged the ECJ to partially overturn the General Court's denial of the appeal by Deutsche Bahn of the decision of the Commission to conduct raids on the offices of the company.

[Case information](#)

EC, Decision of 12 Feb. – Brookfield/TDF

■ Telecommunications

The EC approved the acquisition of TDF S.A.S. of France by Brookfield Infrastructure Fund GP II LLC of the US.

[Case information](#)

EC, Decision of 12 Feb. – Swisscom/SIXT/Managed Mobility JV

■ Business support service activities

The EC approved the creation of Managed Mobility AG, a joint venture between BFM Business Fleet Management AG, a subsidiary of Swisscom AG of Switzerland, and Sixt Leasing AG, a subsidiary of Sixt SE of Germany.

[Case information](#)

EC, Notification of 9 Feb. – Actavis/Allergan

■ ■ Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products

Actavis notified its plan to acquire rival drugmaker Allergan to the EC for merger approval. As initial deadline for the revision the EU regulator set March 16.

[Case information](#)

EC, Notification of 6 Feb. – Becton Dickinson & Co./Carefusion

■ ■ Manufacture of medical instruments and supplies

Becton, Dickinson & Co. notified its plan to acquire rival medical-equipment maker CareFusion to the EC for approval. As initial deadline for the revision the EU regulator set March 13.

[Case information](#)

FROM THE OJEU

■ Dual-use items

An information note on measures adopted by Member States with regard Council Regulation 428/2009 setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items has been published.

[Document 2015/C 51/08](#)

■ Harmonised standards under Union harmonisation legislation

Commission Communication in the framework of the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the EP and of the Council of 9 July 2008, Decision No 768/2008/EC of the EP and of the Council of 9 July 2008, Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the EP and of the Council of 25 November 2009 has been published.

[Document 2015/C 054/03](#)

■ ■ Amendment to Quality of Petrol and Diesel Fuels Directive

Position (EU) No 2/2015 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Directive of the EP and of the Council amending Directive 98/70/EC relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels and amending Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources has been published.

[Document 2015/C 50/01](#) – [Statement of the Council's reason](#)

■ ■ Spirit drinks – protection of geographical indications

Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/210 of 10 February 2015 amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the EP and of the Council on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks has been published.

[Commission Regulation 2015/210](#)

■ ■ Daimler AG application approved

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/206 of 9 February on the approval of the Daimler AG efficient exterior lighting using light emitting diodes as an innovative technology for reducing CO2 emissions from passenger cars pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 443/2009 of the EP and of the Council has been published.

[Commission Implementing Decision 2015/206](#)

■ Facilities for food treatment

A list of approved facilities for the treatment of foods and food ingredients with ionising radiation in the Member States has been published.

[Document 2015/C 51/09](#)

■ Non-opposition to concentration

The Non-opposition to the notified concentration Blackstone/Alliance BV/Alliance Automotive Group – Case M.7401 has been published.

[Document 2015/C 48/02](#) – [Case information](#)

The non-opposition to the notified concentration Lixil/Grohe – Case M.7491 has been published.

[Document 2015/C 48/01](#) – [Case information](#)

The non-opposition to the notified concentration CCMP/INEOS/PQ – Case M.7424 has been published.

[Document 2015/C 49/02](#) – [Case information](#)

The non-opposition to the notified concentration Ingram Micro/ANOV Expansion – Case M.7486 has been published.

[Document 2015/C 49/01](#) – [Case information](#)

BRUSSELS INTERN

■ Better Regulation agenda

A comprehensive Better Regulation Package is expected by the end of May. This will include new guidelines on impact assessment and evaluation (ex-post); while a revision of the Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Law-making should be published in the next weeks and the two independent members of the former Impact Assessment Board (renamed Regulatory Scrutiny Board) will be appointed soon. For President Juncker this is an important dossier and he needs to show some improvements, especially on transparency. Several stakeholders ask for publication of draft impact assessments for consultation, in order to get feedback on the data and on the choice of the alternative policy options during the process. In addition more clarity is needed with regard the possibility of having impact assessments on delegated and implementing acts and guidance on how to deal with self- and co-regulation.

■ Update on roaming

At next week's meeting of the Working Party of the Council the Presidency intends to engage in a discussion of the latest text on roaming.

[Amended Presidency Text](#)

■ Update on energy

The College of EU Commissioners had at the beginning of February a first orientation debate about the Energy Union based on an internal paper which highlights 12 actions. This paper is a first and important step towards the adoption of the Energy Union Framework Strategy on 25 February. Among other proposals, "*...the EC will assess options for voluntary demand aggregation mechanisms for collective purchasing of gas during a crisis and where Member States are dependent on a single supplier...*"; "*...the EC will propose legislation to manage electricity security of supply at the EU level and fully open capacity mechanisms to cross-border participation...*"; "*...the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity and Gas will be upgraded and regions operational centres created...*"; "*...the EC will come forward with an ambitious legislative proposal on redesigning the electricity market, it will pay*

particular attention to the impact of state intervention on the pricing mechanisms..."; "...the EC will develop legislative proposals for a new European market design based on fully integrated wholesale and retail markets...".

As regards the interconnection targets (10% electricity interconnections by 2020 and 15% by 2030), it seems clear now that implementation and progress will be monitored in the framework of the Regional Groups set up under the TEN-E Regulation. These Groups will regular report to the Council; however, it can be excluded the possibility of having penalties or compensations in case a Member State does not reach the target.

For suggestions, comments please contact:

Noerr LLP
Boulevard du Régent 47-48
1000 Brüssel
Belgien

Head of Regulatory & Governmental Affairs



Dr. Holger Schmitz
T +49 30 2094 2160
holger.schmitz@noerr.com

Head of Antitrust & Competition Law



Dr. Alexander Birnstiel
T +49 89 28628 241
alexander.birnstiel@noerr.com

Regulatory Affairs Advisor



Giovanna Ventura
T +32 2 2745573
giovanna.ventura@noerr.com

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