



Content

LAW	1
POLITICS/GENERAL	2
DECISIONS	3
FROM THE OJEU	3
BRUSSELS INTERN	4

Main Topics

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

LAW

■ State Aid

The European Commission intends to prolong for two years, until 2022, the validity of the following EU state aid rules:

- General Block Exemption Regulation;
- De minimis Regulation;
- Guidelines on regional State aid;
- Guidelines on State aid to promote risk finance investments;
- Guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy;
- Guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring;
- Communication on important projects of common European interest (IPCEI).

At the same time, the Commission launched an evaluation to assess whether to further prolong or update these rules. The exercise also covers:

- Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (RDI); and
- Guidelines on State aid to airports and airlines.

The results of this evaluation will be summarised in a Commission Staff Working Document.

■ Investment Firms

The Permanent Representatives Committee endorsed the Council's position on a package of measures setting out a new regulatory framework for investment firms. The Parliament adopted its position last September, therefore inter-institutional negotiations between the co-legislators can now start. On the basis of the text agreed, investment firms would be subject to the same key measures, in particular as regards capital holdings, reporting, corporate governance and remuneration.

[Council position on the proposal for a regulation on the prudential requirements of investment firms – Council position on the proposal for a directive on the prudential supervision of investment firms](#)

■ 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

■ Sustainable Finance

The Technical Expert Group on Sustainable Finance set up by the European Commission last year published its first report on companies' disclosure of climate-related information. Interested parties are invited to provide feedback on the report by 1 February. The Commission will take the findings of the Expert Group into consideration to update its non-binding guidelines on non-financial disclosure, that accompany the Non-Financial Reporting Directive. The Expert Group expects to complete the other reports on taxonomy, carbon benchmarks, and green bonds by June.

[TEG Report](#) – [Call for feedback](#)

■ Banking

The European Banking Authority published its Risk Dashboard which summarises the main risks and vulnerabilities in the EU banking sector using quantitative risk indicators.

[EBA dedicated page](#)

■ Crypto-assets

The European Banking Authority published the results of its assessment of the applicability and suitability of EU law to crypto-assets. The Authority identifies some actions to enhance the monitoring of crypto-asset activities.

[EBA report](#)

■ Structured Deposits

The European Banking Authority published a report on the costs and performance of structured deposits in the Union.

[EBA report](#)

■ Investment Funds

The EC released a report on the impact of the rules on alternative investment fund managers. The report represents the first step in the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive review process, which will continue next year.

[EC report](#)

■ Energy Prices and Costs in Europe

The EC published its third report on energy prices and costs in Europe.

[EC report](#) – [Related documents](#)

■ CEER Work Programme

The Council of European Energy Regulators published its work programme for the new year.

[CEER 2019 Work Programme](#)

■ Brexit

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators published a letter for market participants, Registered Reporting Mechanisms, Organised Market Places and other stakeholders to raise awareness on the importance to prepare for the UK withdrawal from the Union.

[ACER letter](#)

■ Low Voltage Directive

The EC launched a consultation on the evaluation of the Low Voltage Directive. Interested parties can submit their contributions until 4 April.

[EC dedicated page](#)

DECISIONS

EC Investigation – Nike / The Netherlands

■ Tax rulings

The EC opened an in-depth investigation to examine tax treatment granted by the Netherlands to Nike.

[Case information SA.51284](#)

EC Decision of 09 January – Siemens / TUTPL / SPC JV

■ Manufacture of railway locomotives; construction of railways; passenger rail transport

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over Indian company SPC by Siemens and TUTPL.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 09 January – IFM Investors / Vitol / Vitti

■ Manufacture of refined petroleum products

The EC approved the proposed acquisition of joint control over VITTI BV by Vitol Holding B.V. and IFM Investors Pty Ltd.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 09 January – Oyak / Cimpor Portugal

■ Manufacture of cement, mortars and other articles of concrete

The EC approved the acquisition of sole control over Cimpor Portugal sgps s.a. by Ordu Yardimlasma Kurumu.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 08 January – SoftwareONE / Comporex

■ Computer programming and related activities; wholesale of computers and software

The EC approved the acquisition of Comporex AG by SoftwareONE Holding AG.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 07 January – Lithuanian RES support scheme and Energy Intensive users scheme

■ Renewable energy

The EC approved support for production of electricity from renewable energy sources and for electro-intensive users in Lithuania.

[Case information SA.45765](#) – [Case information SA.50484](#)

EC Decision of 07 January – Special regime of support for biomass-operated generators close to forests in Portugal

■ Renewable energy

The EC approved a scheme to support biomass energy installations located close to forest areas at risk of fires in Portugal.

[Case information](#)

FROM THE OJEU

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Bolloré / APMM / CIT – Case M.8747 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 11/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Mondi Steti / Holzindustrie Maresch / Eco-Investment / Labe Wood – Case M.9087 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 9/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Sumitomo Corporation / Toyota Motor Corporation / Kinto Corporation – Case M.9215 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 6/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Sumitomo Corporation / Toyota Motor Corporation / Mobilots Corporation – Case M.9216 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 6/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Engie / EDPR / Repsol / Windplus – Case M.9217 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 6/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Sumitomo / Metal One / JV – Case M.9177 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 5/01](#) – [Case information](#)

■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration EPIC SNCF Mobilités / Ceetrus / JV – Case M.9170 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 11/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Siemens Project Ventures / Veja Mate Offshore Project – Case M.9240 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 11/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Ivanhoe Cambridge / Macquarie / RHP Manager / RHP Platform – Case M.9232 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 9/12](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration CMA CGM / CEVA – Case M.9221 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 9/11](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Amerra / Mubadala / Nireus / Selonda – Case M.9110 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 6/10](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Viohalco Group / ACEK Group / Etem JVs – Case M.9231 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 6/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Denso / AISIN / JV – Case M.9228 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 6/08](#) – [Case information](#)

BRUSSELS INTERN

■ Presidency of the Council

For the first time since joining the EU, Romania has taken over the rotating Presidency of the Council. During its term, which will end in June, the Country will have to guide the Union through the European elections, the UK withdrawal and other important challenges such as the future of the EU.

[Romania priorities](#)

■ Steel

The European Commission intends to impose definitive safeguard measures on imports of certain steel products, to replace the provisional measures in place since July 2018.

Prior notification of the concentration Univar / Nexeo – Case M.9148 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 3/04](#) – [Case information](#)

■ Withdrawal of notification of concentrations

The withdrawal of the notification of the concentration Aperam / VDM – Case M.8907 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 9/01](#) – [Case information](#)

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