

Europeanews

Regulatory & Governmental Affairs

Issue 36/2023. 16 – 20 October 2023

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Main Topics

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

Law

Forced Labor

The International Trade and Internal Market Committees of the European Parliament adopted the joint report on the regulation to ban products made with forced labor. The European Parliament in plenary now needs to endorse the report, which will then become the Parliament's negotiating mandate for the inter-institutional negotiations with the Council and the European Commission on the final shape of the legislation. Discussions at the Council are still on-going.

[Parliament draft report](#)

EC Work Program

The EC adopted its work program which sets out the list of actions it will take in 2024. The document focuses in particular on additional simplifications in a range of policy areas. In the coming months the Commission intends to adopt 18 new initiatives and to speed works on 154 pending proposals.

[EC dedicated page](#)

CO2 Emission Standards

The Council reached an agreement on the proposal to update and strengthen the regulation on CO2 emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles. Inter-institutional negotiations with the European Parliament and the Commission on the final version of the law will start soon.

[Council general approach](#)

Foreign Direct Investments Screening

The EC released its 3rd annual report on the screening of foreign direct investments into the Union together with a statistical update on dual-use export control.

[FDI Report](#)

Microplastic

The EC presented its proposal to prevent microplastic pollution from the unintentional release of plastic pellets. The proposed regulation contains best handling practices for operators, mandatory certification and self-declarations and a harmonized methodology to estimate losses. The proposal now needs to be discussed and adopted by the European Parliament and the Council.

[EC proposal for a regulation on preventing pellet losses](#)

Urban Wastewater

The Council reached an agreement on the proposal to review the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, by extending its scope and aligning it with the European Green Deal's objectives. Inter-institutional negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council on the final shape of the legislation will start soon.

[Council general approach](#)

Digital Services Act

The EC adopted a delegated regulation on the performance of independent audits to assess compliance of Very Large Online Platforms and Very Large Online Search Engines with the DSA. The European Parliament and the Council have three months to scrutinize the piece of law; if no objection is raised, then the rules will apply.

[EC dedicated page](#)

The EC published a set of recommendations for Member States to fast-track DSA governance to enhance response to illegal online content. In particular, the Commission is encouraging Member State to designate an independent authority to be part of a network of prospective Digital Services Coordinators, ahead of the legal deadline of 17 February 2024. The Commission also sent request for information to Meta and TikTok on the measures taken to comply with obligations related to risk assessments and mitigation measures against the dissemination and amplification of illegal content and disinformation.

[EC dedicated page](#)

Taxation

The Council decided to add Antigua and Barbuda, Belize and Seychelles to the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes. At the same time, three jurisdictions were removed from the list: British Virgin Islands, Costa Rica and Marshall Islands.

[Council conclusions](#)

Consumer Rights

The EC presented a proposal to simplify and renew the rules on out-of-court dispute resolution. In particular, the proposal aims to expand the range of issues that can be resolved through the Alternative Dispute Resolution Directive. The proposal now needs to be discussed and adopted by the European Parliament and the Council.

[EC dedicated page](#)

Electricity Market Design

The Council reached an agreement on the proposal to amend the EU's electricity market design, allowing the beginning of inter-institutional negotiations with the European Parliament to reach a final agreement. The text of the general approach will be available soon.

Anti-dumping

Commission Implementing Regulation of 17 October 2023 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1477 extending the definitive anti-dumping duty imposed by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/492, as amended by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/776, on imports of certain woven and/or stitched glass fibre fabrics originating in the People's Republic of China and Egypt to imports of certain woven and/or

stitched glass fibre fabrics consigned from Turkey has been published in the EU Official Journal.

[Commission Implementing Regulation 2023/2169](#)

Commission Implementing Regulation of 17 October 2023 accepting a request for new exporting producer treatment with regard to the definitive anti-dumping measures imposed on imports of certain iron or steel fasteners originating in the People’s Republic of China and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/191 has been published in the EU Official Journal.

[Commission Implementing Regulation 2023/2159](#)

Commission Implementing Regulation of 16 October 2023 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1259 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of threaded tube or pipe cast fittings, of malleable cast iron and spheroidal graphite cast iron originating in the People’s Republic of China and Thailand has been published in the EU Official Journal.

[Commission Implementing Regulation 2023/2202](#)

Commission Implementing Regulation of 16 October 2023 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/607 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of citric acid originating in the People’s Republic of China as extended to imports of citric acid consigned from Malaysia following a “new exporter” review pursuant to article 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1036 has been published in the EU Official Journal.

[Commission Implementing Regulation 2023/2180](#)

Notice of the impending expiry of certain anti-dumping measures has been published in the EU Official Journal.

[Document C/2023/182](#)

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

Gas Storage Regulations

The EU Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators published a study on the impact of European and national gas storage regulations and it is based on comprehensive information provided by energy national regulatory authorities.

[ACER study](#)

Decision

EC Decision of 19 October – Pfizer / Seagen Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and preparations

The EC approved the proposed acquisition of Seagen by Pfizer.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 19 October – Nippon Express / Cargo-Partner Transportation support activities

The EC approved the acquisition of sole control of Cargo-Partner Group by Nippon Express Holdings Inc.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 19 October – Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH / Alkaloids Corporation of Australia Pty. Limited / Transo-Pharm Handels-GmbH / Linnea SA / Alkaloids Corporation / C.H. Boehringer Sohn AG & Co. KG / Ipsen S.A. / C-squared Pharma S.a.r.l. / Schwabe Extracta GmbH & Co. KG / Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH & Co. KG / Transo-Pharm Holding-AG Manufacture of pharmaceutical preparations

The EC fined pharma companies Alkaloids of Australia, Alkaloids Corporation, Boehringer, Linnea and Transo-Pharm for participating in a cartel concerning a pharmaceutical ingredient.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 16 October – Brookfield / Cameco / Westinghouse Mining of uranium and thorium ores; processing of nuclear fuel; manufacture of general-purpose machinery

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control of Westinghouse by Brookfield and Cameco.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 16 October – KKR / Telefonica / Pangeaco Telecommunications

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control of PangeaCO S.A.C. by KKR & Co. Inc. and Telefonica S.A.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 13 October – General Atlantic / L Catterton / Dogmates

Manufacture of prepared pet foods

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control of Dogmates Holding Ltd. (“Dogmates”) by General Atlantic Service Company L.P. (“General Atlantic”) and L Catterton Management Limited (“L Catterton”).

[Case information](#)

From the OJEU

Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Liberty Global / Fluvius / Netco – Case M.10994 has been published.

[Document C/2023/428](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Swiss Life / SGC / East London Energy / Equans De Holding Company / IESL Assets – Case M.11276 has been published.

[Document C/2023/363](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration TDR Capital / Ring International / Popeyes UK – Case M.11278 has been published.

[Document C/2023/303](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Hamburger Energiewerke / ANE – Case M.11272 has been published.

[Document C/2023/291](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Apollo / Applus – Case M.11225 has been published.

[Document C/2023/290](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration EDF / Credit Mutuel / Ile-De-France Building – Case M.11239 has been published.

[Document C/2023/289](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Goldman Sachs / Charlesbank Capital Partners / World Insurance Associates – Case M.11281 has been published.

[Document C/2023/263](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration NJJ / LML – Case M.11251 has been published.

[Document C/2023/386](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration BDT / Sofima Holdings / Sofima – Case M.11258 has been published.

[Document C/2023/369](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Kubikx / Veroo / 9.5 Ventures / Heylog – Case M.11069 has been published.

[Document C/2023/368](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration TPG / KKR / A-GAS – Case M.11277 has been published.

[Document C/2023/304](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Alimentation Couche-Tard / Totalenergies (Belgium-Luxembourg-Germany) – Case M.11167 has been published.

[Document C/2023/300](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Asterion / Steag Group – Case M.11287 has been published.

[Document C/2023/282](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration KKR / Singtel / ST Dynamo Investment – Case M.11315 has been published.

[Document C/2023/279](#) – [Case information](#)

Brussels intern

De-risking

The European Commission intends to launch studies “sector by sector, product by product” to identify excessive trade dependencies with the aim to reduce risks with rival and trading partners.

Russian Public Assets

European finance ministers had another discussion on the issue of mobilising frozen Russian public assets in the EU to help rebuild Ukraine. No agreement yet on a possible proposal to tax seized Russian state assets.

Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive

EU Member States are discussing a possible inclusion of the financial sector under the scope of the directive. Inter-institutional negotiations between the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission on the final shape of the legislation are on-going; however, the inclusion of finance is one of the most divisive points in the negotiations. In fact, the European Parliament is in favour of mandatory due diligence rules for financial institutions, while the Council opted for a carve-out of the sector. The Presidency of the Council is working on a compromise on the issue for the negotiations on the directive to advance.

Contact

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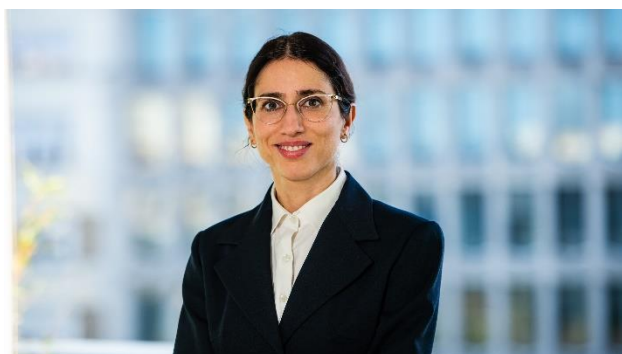
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