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/ Law

■ European Digital Future

The EC released its comprehensive package on digital policy, which consists of a Communication on European Data Strategy, a White Paper on Artificial Intelligence and a Communication on Shaping the European Digital Future.

The intention of the European executive is to create a single market for data, where personal and non-personal data can flow within the EU and across sectors, with full respect of European rules, in particular on privacy and competition. In order to do so, the Commission intends to establish a regulatory framework on data governance, access and re-use of data; to support the development of the right infrastructures and to launch sectoral specific actions to build European data spaces, in particular in industrial manufacturing, environment, energy and mobility.

With regard to competition law, the European Commission is currently evaluating the effectiveness of the European rules, with its ongoing review until 2023. The Commission intends to provide more guidance to stakeholders on the compliance of data sharing with European rules, also by updating the Horizontal Cooperation Guidelines; in merger control the Commission will look closely at the possible effects of large-scale data accumulation through acquisitions. In the coming months the Commission will also launch a sector inquiry with a strong focus on the new and emerging markets.

EC Communication "A European strategy for data" – White Paper on Artificial Intelligence – EC Communication "Shaping Europe's Digital Future" – EC Report on the safety and liability implications of Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things and robotics

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On the basis of this strategy, the Commission launched a consultation on the possible measures that could be taken in order for the EU to be at the forefront of the data economy. Contributions can be submitted until 31 May.

EC dedicated page

Also the White Paper on Artificial Intelligence is open for public consultation until 19 May.

EC dedicated page

The Commission will present later this year a Digital Services Act to establish clear rules for all businesses to access the Single Market and to strengthen the responsibility of online platforms, in order for them to be more transparent about the functioning of their algorithms.

■ E-commerce

The Council adopted new rules to facilitate detection of tax fraud in cross-border e-commerce transactions. The new legislative texts will amend Directive 2006/112/EC on the requirements for payment service providers and Regulation 904/2010 on administrative cooperation. The new measures, that will also enable Member States to collect the records made electronically available by payment service providers, will become applicable as of 1 January 2024.

<u>Directive introducing certain requirements for payment service providers</u> – <u>Regulation on measures</u> to strengthen administrative cooperation

■ Economic Policy

The Council adopted a recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area.

Council Recommendation

Taxation

The Council revised its list of non-cooperative jurisdictions, adding to the eight jurisdictions that were already listed Panama, Seychelles, Cayman Islands and Palau.

<u>Council conclusions on EU list of non-cooperative</u> <u>jurisdictions – Council dedicated page</u>

■ Air Services with China

The Council adopted a decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the EU and China on certain aspects of air services. The aim is to bring the existing bilateral agreements between EU Member States and China in line with the EU law.

<u>Council decision</u> – <u>Agreement on certain aspects of air services</u>

■ EU-Japan Passenger Name Record Data

The Council adopted a decision authorising the opening of negotiations between the EU and Japan for an agreement on the transfer and use of passenger name record (PNR) data.

Lead Compounds

The Council decided not to object to a Commission delegated directive amending Annex II to Directive 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles as regards the exemptions for lead and lead compounds in components. The directive can now enter into force, unless the European Parliament objects.

EC delegated Directive – Annex

■ 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

■ European Securities Markets

The EC launched a consultation to collect inputs regarding a possible review of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive and Regulation (MiFID and MiFIR). Contributions can be submitted until 20 April.

EC dedicated page

■ Capital Markets Union

The High-Level Forum on Capital Markets Union published an interim report on the way forward for the Capital Markets Union.

Interim report

Sustainable Finance

The EC launched a public consultation on the review of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive. Contributions can be submitted until 28 April.

EC dedicated page

Banking

The European Banking Authority published its first quantitative Report on minimum requirements for own funds and eligible liabilities under a new methodology.

EBA dedicated page

/ Decisions

EC Decision of 19 February – Telefonica / Prosegur / Prosegur Alarmas Espana

■ Telecommunications; private security activities

The EC approved the proposed acquisition of joint control by Telefonica and Prosegur over Prosegur Alarmas.

Case information

■ Gas Capacity Platforms

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators and the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas extended the deadline of the public consultation on the Network Codes Functionality until 28 February.

Dedicated page

Decarbonising the Power Sector

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators published a paper with examples of calculation regarding the CO2 emission limits for generation capacity, in the framework of Capacity Mechanisms.

ACER paper

■ Market for Electricity

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators launched two public consultations on EU balancing market for electricity. The first consultation is on the methodology establishing a list of standard products for balancing capacity for frequency restoration reserves and replacement reserves; the second on the methodology establishing a cooptimised allocation process of cross-zonal capacity of the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves. Contributions can be submitted until 10 March.

ACER dedicated page - ACER dedicated page

EC Decision of 17 February – Itochu / AMCI / POSCO / JVLP / NCR

Mining of hard coal

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over North Central Resources LLC by Itochu Corporation, American Metals & Coal International Inc., POSCO Corporation and Jaz Ventures L.P.

Case information

EC Decision of 18 February – Hyundai Motor Group / APTIV / JV

■ Manufacture of other parts and accessories for motor vehicles

The EC approved the creation of a joint venture by Aptiv PLC and Hyundai Motor Company, Kia Motors Corporation and Hyundai Mobis, belonging to Hyundai Motor Group.

Case information

EC Decision of 17 February – Showa Denko K.K. / Hitachi Chemical Company

■ Manufacture of electronic components, of instruments and appliances for measuring, testing and navigation

The EC approved the acquisition by Showa Denko K.K. of Hitachi Chemical Company Ltd.

Case information

/ From the OJEU

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Mitsubishi / Wallenius Wilhelmsen / JV – Case M.9712 has been published.

<u>Document 2020/C 57/03</u> – <u>Case information</u>

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Eiffage / Atlas Arteria / Blue Atlas / PGGM / APRR / ADELAC – Case M.9708 has been published.

Document 2020/C 57/02 - Case information

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Gilde / Proman / Agilitas – Case M.9704 has been published.

Document 2020/C 57/01 - Case information

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Infineon / Cypress – Case M.9466 has been published.

<u>Document 2020/C 56/03</u> – <u>Case information</u>

Non-opposition to the notified concentration MEIF 6 Fibre / KCOM Group – Case M.9433 has been published.

Document 2020/C 56/02 - Case information

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Ericsson / Kathrein Antenna and Filter Assets – Case M.9332 has been published.

<u>Document 2020/C 56/01</u> – <u>Case information</u>

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Mahindra & Mahindra / Ford Motor Company / Ardour – Case M.9691 has been published.

Document 2020/C 53/01 – Case information

Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration Bertelsmann / Penguin Random House – Case M.9710 has been published.

Document 2020/C 58/07 - Case information

Prior notification of the concentration Parks Bottom / Omers / Accor / Fairmont Hotels – Case M.9684 has been published.

Document 2020/C 58/06 – Case information

Prior notification of the concentration Telia Company / CapMan AIFM / JV – Case M.9659 has been published.

Document 2020/C 57/06 - Case information

Prior notification of the concentration AXA / Groupe Credit Agricole / ELL Luxembourg 2 – Case M.9739 has been published.

Document 2020/C 56/12 - Case information

Prior notification of the concentration Amex / GBT – Case M.9735 has been published.

Document 2020/C 56/11 – Case information

Prior notification of the concentration KII / INFOR – Case M.9754 has been published.

Document 2020/C 56/10 - Case information

Prior notification of the concentration ISQ / Rubis / Rubis Terminal – Case M.9740 has been published.

Document 2020/C 56/09 - Case information

Prior notification of the concentration AMG / Shell / JV – Case M.9623 has been published.

Document 2020/C 56/08 - Case information

Prior notification of the concentration TSR Recycling / Sims Metal Management (Certain recycling assets) – Case M.9649 has been published.

Document 2020/C 56/07 – Case information

Prior notification of the concentration Generali Real Estate / Apleona Real Estate / Property Management JV – Case M.9665 has been published.

Document 2020/56/06 - Case information

/ Brussels intern

■ European Green Deal

In view of the Competitiveness Council of 27 and 28 February, the Presidency of the Council released a background paper on the challenges of the green and digital transformation.

Policy paper

Energy

The European Parliament Committee for Energy urged the European Commission to update its TEN-E guidelines in a way that is consistent with the EU energy and climate targets for 2030.

/ Contact

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