

Regulatory & Governmental Affairs

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Foreign Trade Energy Compliance



Law

EU Customs Reform

The EC released its proposals to reform the EU Customs Union in order to simplify the processes and make them greener and more digital. The reform is based on three main pillars: a new partnership between customs and business, an updated surveillance and risk assessment model managed by a new EU authority, a more modern framework for e-commerce.

EC dedicated page

Anti-dumping

Commission Implementing Regulation of 16 May 2023 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain heavy plate of non-alloy or other alloy steel originating in the People's Republic of China following an expiry review pursuant to article 11(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1036 of the European Parliament and of the Council has been published in the EU Official Journal.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/968

Deforestation

The Council formally adopted the regulation that aims to minimize the risk of deforestation and forest degradation, setting mandatory due diligence rules for all operators and traders who place, make available or export the following commodities (and derived products) from the EU market: palm oil, cattle, wood, coffee, cocoa, rubber and soy. The regulation will soon be published in the EU Official Journal and enter into force 20 days later.

Regulation on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation

Tax Transparency

The Council reached an agreement on new tax transparency rules for all service providers facilitating transactions in crypto-assets for customers resident in the EU, which will amend the directive on administrative cooperation in the area of taxation. The file is subject to the consultation procedure, therefore the European Parliament will need to express its opinion, but the final adoption is reserved to Member States in the Council by unanimity. The new reporting requirements on crypto-assets, e-money and central bank digital currencies will enter into force on 1 January 2026.

Council general approach

Anti-money Laundering

The Council officially adopted the regulation on information accompanying the transfers of funds by extending the scope of the rules to transfers of crypto assets. The regulation will soon be published in the EU Official Journal.

Regulation on information accompanying transfers of funds and certain crypto-assets



Digital Finance

The Council adopted the regulation on markets in crypto-assets (MiCA). The new rules will introduce a harmonized framework in the Union and it will cover issuers of utility tokens, asset referenced tokens and so-called "stablecoins". This is the final step in the legislative process. Soon the regulation will be published in the EU Official Journal.

Regulation on markets in crypto-assets

Financial Services

The EC adopted a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing a framework for structured regulatory cooperation in the area of financial services with the UK. The document shall now be officially endorsed by the Council before it can be signed.

Draft MoU

Cyber-attacks

Council Decision of 15 May 2023 amending Decision (CFSP) 2019/797 concerning restrictive measures against cyber-attacks threatening the Union or its Member States has been published in the EU Official Journal.

Council Decision (CFSP) 2023/964

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

Anti-money Laundering

The EC updated the list of high-risk third-country jurisdictions adding Nigeria and South Africa, while Cambodia and Morocco have been delisted.

Remit

The EU Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators released its quarterly updates on the Regulation on Wholesale Energy Market Integrity and Transparency (REMIT).

ACER dedicated page



Single Digital Gateway

Commission Guidelines for the implementation of the single digital gateway – Regulation 2023/2024 work programme has been published in the EU Official Journal.

EC Guidelines

Decision

EC Decision of 16 May – Parks Bottom / Oxford / Accor / The Rimrock Resort Hotel

Hotels and similar accommodation; real estate activities

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control of the Rimrock Resort Hotel by Parks Bottom Co Real Estate Holdings Inc. ("Parks Bottom"), Oxford Properties ("Oxford") and Accor Management Canada Inc. ("Accor").

Case information

EC Decision of 15 May – Microsoft / Activision Blizzard Manufacture of computers and peripheral equipment; retail sale of computers; publishing of computer games

The EC approved the proposed acquisition of Activision Blizzard by Microsoft, subject to conditions.

Case information

EC Decision of 12 May – Platinum Equity Group / Diversey Holdings

Manufacture of soap and detergents, cleaning and polishing preparations

The EC approved the acquisition of sole control of Diversey by Platinum Equity Group ("PEG").

Case information

From the OJEU

Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration KBR / Sun Capital / Homesafe JV – Case M.11083 has been published.

Document 2023/C 175/02 - Case information



Non-opposition to the notified concentration Apollo Management / Tenneco – Case M.10712 has been published.

Document 2023/C 175/01 - Case information

Non-opposition to the notified concentration BNP Paribas Fortis / Matexi / R2O JV – Case M.11079 has been published.

Document 2023/C 174/05 - Case information

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Axpo Iberia / Acsa Obras e Infraestructuras / Noguera Renovables – Case M.11089 has been published.

Document 2023/C 174/04 - Case information

Non-opposition to the notified concentration HG / EFMS / Trustquay / Viewpoint – Case M.11067 has been published.

Document 2023/C 174/03 - Case information

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Cintra / Abertis / Itinere / Bip & Drive – Case M.10561 has been published.

Document 2023/C 174/02 - Case information

Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration IBV / Acen / Acri / Singapore JV / Taiwan JV / Philippines JV – Case M.11046 has been published.

Document 2023/C 175/12 - Case information

Prior notification of the concentration Apollo / Platinum Falcon / Univar – Case M.11117 has been published.

Document 2023/C 175/11 – Case information

Prior notification of the concentration EFMS / PSPIB / Radius - Case M.11110 has been published.

Document 2023/C 175/10 - Case information

Prior notification of the concentration Caceis / RBC Investor Services Bank / RBC Offshore Fund Managers / RBC Investor Services Trust Assets – Case M.10978 has been published.

Document 2023/C 175/09 - Case information



Brussels intern

EU-India Trade and Technology Council

Representatives of the EU and India had their first ministerial meeting of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC), which serves as a coordination platform to address key trade and technology challenges. The two parties agreed to focus on resilient value chains and on addressing market access issues. Next ministerial meeting is planned for early 2024.

Bank Crisis Management Framework

Finance Ministers from EU Member States discussed the legislative package aimed at strengthening the European bank crisis management framework. Work on the file will continue at technical level.

Contact

For suggestions, comments please contact:

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