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Main Topics

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LAW

■ Electricity Market

The Committee of Permanent Representatives approved the provisional agreement reached last December between the Presidency of the Council and the European Parliament on the two proposals for the EU energy market design.

The new electricity market design proposals, a directive and a regulation, aim to adapt the current rules to new market realities. The directive will set out the regulatory framework for transmission and distribution system operators; it will allow electricity providers to set their own prices and Member States to apply public interventions in price setting. The regulation revises the rules of the internal electricity market to ensure its competitiveness; it also lays down the conditions for Member States to establish capacity mechanisms.

The agreement will have to be formally approved by the two co-legislators. The EP is expected to vote on the two files in March. The final adoption on the Council will take

place after that. Then the two texts will be published in the EU Official Journal. The regulation will enter into force immediately, while the directive will have to be transposed into national law within 18 months.

[Final compromise text on a Directive on common rules for the internal market in electricity – Final compromise text on a Regulation on the internal market for electricity – Add I – Add II](#)

■ Single-use Plastics

The Committee of Permanent Representatives endorsed the agreement reached between the Presidency of the Council and the EP on new restrictions on certain single-use plastic products. The text now needs to be formally adopted by the two co-legislators.

[Draft Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment](#)

■ Radio Spectrum

The EC adopted an Implementing Decision to harmonise the radio spectrum in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band for the future development of 5G. This is in line with the European Electronic Communications Code.

[EC dedicated page](#)

■ EU-Japan Data Flows

The EC adopted its adequacy decision allowing personal data to flow freely between the EU and Japan. This decision complements the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement. After two years, a first joint review will be carried out to assess the functioning of the framework. This is the first time that the Union agrees with a third country on a reciprocal recognition of the adequate level of protection.

[EC Implementing Decision](#)

■ EU Integration

The European Parliament adopted a non-legislative resolution on differentiated integration. Lawmakers warn against the risk of political and institutional fragmentation and state that differentiated integration is a “second-best option” which should be used only for some limited policies. The EP aims to put an end the so-called “opting out”, oblig-

ing all Member States to fully comply with EU law in all policy areas.

[EP resolution on Differentiated Integration](#)

■ Consumer Protection

The Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection of the EP adopted the report on the legislative proposal on better enforcement and modernisation of EU consumer protection rules, together with the mandate to start inter-institutional negotiations. The proposal, which will amend four consumer protection directives, focuses on various issues, including penalties for infringements, transparency on online marketplaces, protection for consumers of free digital services, the right of withdrawal and dual quality of products. The adopted report will be available soon.

[EP draft report on the proposal for a Directive on better enforcement and modernisation of EU consumer protection rules](#)

■ 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

■ State Aid Scoreboard

The EC published the 2018 State Aid Scoreboard. The annual State Aid Scoreboard is based on expenditure reports provided by Member States and covers all existing aid measures to industries, services, agriculture and fisheries. According to that, over 96% of new implemented aid measures fell under the General Block Exemption Regulation and could be quickly implemented by Member States.

[EC dedicated page](#)

■ Energy Infrastructure Projects

EU Member States adopted a Commission’s proposal to invest almost 800 million euro in key European energy infrastructure projects, under the Connecting Europe Facility programme.

[List of actions receiving financial assistance](#)

■ European Grid Connection Codes

The Council of European Energy Regulators published its report on regulatory frameworks for European Energy Networks.

[CEER Report](#)

■ Electricity Market

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators published a decision on the methodology for the pricing of capacity among bidding zones in the intraday electricity market.

[ACER decision](#)

■ Euro

The EC launched several targeted consultations on the international role of the euro in specific sectors: agricultural and food commodities, metals and minerals, and transport sector manufactures in the field of aircraft, maritime and railway transport. Contributions can be submitted until end of March. Consultations in the financial and energy sectors will follow. A workshop on the international role of the euro in the energy sector is planned for 14 February.

[EC consultation in the international trade of agricultural and food commodities](#) – [EC consultation in the aircraft manufacturing sector](#) – [EC consultation on metals and minerals](#) – [EC consultation in maritime and railway transport](#)

DECISIONS

EC Decision of 23 January – Denso / Aisin / JV

■ **Manufacture of electrical and electronic equipment for motor vehicles; manufacture of parts and accessories for motor vehicles**

The EC approved the proposed creation of a joint venture by Denso Corporation and Aisin Seiki Co. Ltd.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 23 January – Viohalco Group / Acek Group / Etem JVs

■ **Manufacture of parts and accessories for motor vehicles**

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control of Etem Gestamp Aluminium extrusions and Gestamp Etem Automotive Bulgaria by Etem Bulgaria S.A. and Gestamp North Europe Services S.L.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 23 January – Univar / Nexeo

■ **Wholesale of chemical products**

The EC approved the acquisition of sole control over Nexeo Solutions Inc. by Univar Inc.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 23 January – UPL / Arysta Lifescience

■ **Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products; crop and animal production**

The EC approved the acquisition of Arysta LifeScience Inc. by United Phosphorus Ltd.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 22 January – Volkswagen / Daimler / HeyCar

■ **Sale of cars and light motor vehicles**

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over Mobility Trader Holding (“HeyCar”) by Daimler AG and Volkswagen AG.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 22 January – Magna / Getrag Ford Transmissions Slovakia

■ **Manufacture of parts and accessories for motor vehicles**

The EC approved the proposed acquisition of control by Magna Powertrain GmbH over the double clutch transmissions business of Getrag Ford Transmissions Slovakia (“GFT”).

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 21 January – Mastercard II

■ **Financial service activities**

The EC fined Mastercard for limiting the possibility for merchants to benefit from cross-border card payment services.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 21 January – The Blackstone Group / Luminor Bank

■ **Financial service activities**

The EC approved the acquisition of sole control over Luminor Bank by the Blackstone Group.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 21 January – WorleyParsons / Jacobs ECR

■ **Engineering activities and related technical consultancy**

The EC approved the acquisition by WorleyParsons of the Energy, Chemicals & Resources business division of Jacobs Engineering Group.

[Case information](#)

FROM THE OJEU

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Dr August Oetker / Coop-Gruppe / F&B – Food and Beverage Services – Case M.9085 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 31/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration PepsiCo / SodaStream International – Case M.9108 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 30/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration CVC / Messer Group / Divestment Business – Case M.9059 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 30/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration KKR / Altice / SFR Filiale – Case M.9072 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 28/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Oyak / Cimpor Portugal – Case M.9213 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 24/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration DV4 / ABP / OMERS / QIA / Real Estate JV – Case M.9154 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 24/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration HP / Apogee – Case M.9060 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 24/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Adient / Boeing / JV (Aircraft seats) – Case M.8960 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 24/01](#) – [Case information](#)

■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration Caisse des Depots et Consignations / Swiss Life / JV – Case M.9169 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 31/10](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration ANTA Sports Products / FountainVest China Capital Partners GP3 / Amer Sports – Case M.9258 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 31/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Swiss / Montagu / Real estate property – Case M.9255 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 31/08](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Radeberger / Veltins / JV – Case M.9236 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 30/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration FSD / Tower Europe – Case M.9229 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 30/08](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration MHI / Danfoss / AIP – Case M.9126 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 28/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration NEC / KMD – Case M.9257 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 28/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration OTPP / MDP / Fleet Complete – Case M.9235 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 27/12](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Pierburg / Xingfu / Xingfu Assets – Case M.9203 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 27/11](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Triton / Sunweb – Case M.9249 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 27/10](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Hanon Systems / Magna International (Rotor business) – Case M.9197 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 24/10](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Allianz / DIF / Infrared Capital Partners / Daiwater – Case M.9230 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 24/09](#) – [Case information](#)

■ Withdrawal of notification of concentrations

The withdrawal of the notification of the concentration Cargill / ADM / GrainBridge / JV – Case M.9178 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 31/02](#) – [Case information](#)

■ Russia-Ukraine Gas Talks

The second round of trilateral talks at political level among Russia, Ukraine and the EU on the long-term transit of gas to Europe post-2019 were held on 21 January. Discussions covered all key areas: the legal framework for a future transit contract; tariffs; unbundling of the transmission system operator in Ukraine; and the EU's future gas demands. The EU presented a proposal for a future transit agreement, covering in particular its duration, volumes and tariffs. Talks at experts level will continue, while the next ministerial meeting is scheduled for May.

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