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Main Topics

- General
- Bank/Insurance/Tax
- Environment
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- Competition/SA
- Healthcare
- Aviation/Transport
- Foreign Trade
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- Food/Tobacco

LAW

■ Copyright Reform

The European Parliament adopted the proposal for a new copyright directive, after more than two years of negotiations. The text was agreed by the co-legislators last month and includes the two controversial articles on the creation of a new right that will allow press publishers to claim remuneration for the online use of their publications (so called publishers' neighbouring right, article 11) and on the imposition of content monitoring measures on online platforms (so called value gap, article 13). The text now needs to be formally adopted by the Council, which is expected for 9 April. It will then be published on the Official Journal of the EU; Member States will have 24 months to transpose the new rules into their national legislation.

[EP resolution on the proposal for a Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market](#)

■ Emission Targets for Cars

The European Parliament adopted the proposal for a regulation on CO2 emission standards for new cars and vans in the EU for the period after 2020. The proposal includes a strengthened market surveillance system and measures to support cost-effective implementation of the CO2 targets. Following this approval by the Parliament, the Council will finalise the formal adoption. The new legislation will enter into force twenty days after publication in the EU Official Journal.

[EP resolution on the proposal for a Regulation setting emission performance standards for new passenger cars and new light commercial vehicles](#)

■ Plastics

The European Parliament adopted the proposal for a directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment. In particular, the directive will introduce a ban on selected single-use plastic products

and will extend producer responsibility schemes. The Council can now finalise the formal adoption of the text, which will then be published in the EU Official Journal. Member States will have two years to transpose the legislation into their national law.

[EP resolution on the proposal for a directive](#)

■ Electricity Market Design

The European Parliament adopted new market design rules, which aim at making the EU's electricity market fit for the future. The Council can now formally adopt the texts. The Regulations will enter into force immediately, while the Directive will have to be transposed into national law within 18 months.

[EP resolution on the proposal for a Directive on common rules of the internal market in electricity](#)

[EP resolution on the proposal for a Regulation on the internal market for electricity](#)

[EP resolution on the proposal for a Regulation establishing a European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators](#)

[EP resolution on the proposal for a Regulation on risk-preparedness in the electricity sector](#)

■ Consumer Redress

The European Parliament adopted its position on the proposal for a directive on representative actions, which will repeal Directive 2009/22/EC. Inter-institutional negotiations on the proposal will start once the Council agrees its position. The proposal aims at creating a harmonised framework for consumer redress across the EU.

[EP resolution on the proposal for a Directive on representative actions for the protection of collective interests of consumers](#)

■ Consumer Protection

The Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Council approved the agreement reached between the Presidency of the Council and the negotiator of the European Parliament on the proposal for the protection of consumers' interests. The proposal will amend the unfair commercial practices directive, the consumer rights directive, the unfair contract terms directive and the price indication directive. The text needs now to be formally adopted by the European Parliament and the Council. Member States will then have 24 months to transpose it into national law.

[Compromise text on the proposal for a Directive as regards better enforcement and modernisation of EU consumer protection rules](#)

■ Cross-border Mobility of Companies

The Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Council endorsed the agreement reached between the Presidency of the Council and the negotiator of the European Parliament on 13 March on the draft directive on cross-border conversions, mergers and divisions. The text needs to be formally adopted by the two co-legislators. It will start applying 36 months after its entry into force.

[Final compromise text on the proposal for a Directive on cross-border conversions, mergers and divisions](#)

■ Brexit

The European Institutions are finalising their preparations for a no-deal scenario. 17 out of the 19 legislative proposals presented by the European Commission have already been agreed by the co-legislators. The no-deal contingency plan includes measures for the EU budget, financial services, air connectivity and safety, road and rail connectivity, fishing rights, climate policy, social security entitlements and visa reciprocity. If the Withdrawal Agreement is not ratified by 29 March, a no-deal may occur on 12 April.

[EC dedicated page](#)

■ Non-performing Loans

The Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Council approved Member States' position on the proposed directive on secondary markets for bad loans. The co-legislators will start negotiations on the text as soon as the European Parliament agrees on its position.

[Council position on the proposal for a Directive on credit servicers, credit purchasers and the recovery of collateral](#)

■ Type-approval Requirements for Motor Vehicles

The Council and the European Parliament reached a provisional political agreement on the revised General Safety Regulation. According to the agreed text, as of 2022 new safety technologies for cars, vans, buses and trucks will become mandatory in European vehicles with the aim to protect passengers, pedestrians and cyclists. The agreement now needs to be formally approved by the co-legislators.

The agreed text will be available soon.

[EC proposal for a Regulation on type-approval requirements for motor vehicles, their trailers and systems as regards their general safety and the protection of vehicle occupants and vulnerable road users](#)

■ 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

■ Competition Proceedings Hearing Officer

The EC's Hearing Officer for antitrust and merger proceedings presented its activity report for 2017-2018.

[Activity report](#)

■ Brexit and Competition Law

The EC released a notice giving guidance for the application of EU competition law in case of a no-deal Brexit.

[EC Notice](#)

■ REMIT

The Council of European Energy Regulators published its conclusions paper on new services and DSO involvement, which aims to provide clarity on NRA's positions on storage, data management, direct services to the consumer,

telecommunications and services outside of the energy sector.

[CEER Conclusions Paper](#)

■ Cyber-security of 5G Networks

The EC published its recommendation for a common European approach to the security of 5G networks. The document contains a set of measures, in particular Member States are invited to complete by the end of June their national risk assessments; while by the end of the year the NIS Cooperation Group is expected to agree on the measures necessary to address the risk at EU levels. By October 2020, the Commission together with Member States shall assess the effect of the recommendation and if necessary present further actions.

[EC Recommendation](#)

DECISIONS

ECJ Judgement of 28 March – Germany v Commission (Case C-405/16 P)

■ Renewable energy

The European Court of Justice annulled the Commission decision that found Germany's law on renewable energy involved state aid.

[Press release](#)

EC Decision of 28 March – ArcelorMittal / CLN / Ilva Sscs

■ Manufacture of basic iron and steel and of ferro-alloys; wholesale of metals and metal ores

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control of certain Ilva steel service centres by ArcelorMittal SA and Coils Lamiere Nastri Spa.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 25 March – DXC Technology / Luxoft Holding

■ Computer programming, consultancy, information service activities

The EC approved the acquisition of Luxoft Holding Inc. by DXC Technology Company.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 25 March – DA Agravis Machinery / Konekesko Eesti / Konekesko Latvija / Konekesko Lietuva / Konekesko Finnish Agrimachinery Trade Business

■ Other retail sale of new goods in specialised stores

The EC approved the acquisition by Danish Agro of Konekesko's agricultural machinery distribution businesses in

Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, subject to conditions.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 25 March – Novelis / Aleris

■ Aluminium production

The EC opened an in-depth investigation into the proposed acquisition of Aleris by Novelis.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 22 March – Ancillary sports merchandise

■ Artistic creation; wholesale of household goods

The EC fined Nike for restricting cross-border sales of merchandising products.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 22 March – Marsh & McLennan Companies / Jardine Lloyd Thompson Group

■ Activities auxiliary to insurance and pension funding

The EC approved the acquisition of Jardine Lloyd Thompson (“JLT”) by Marsh & McLennan Companies (“MMC”), subject to conditions.

[Case information](#)

FROM THE OJEU

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Carlyle / TA Associates / Weiman – Case M.9302 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 117/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration CD&R / FHI – Case M.9261 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 115/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Amcor / Bemis – Case M.9094 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 115/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration MUTB / CFSGAM – Case M.9254 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 114/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration JAB / Coty – Case M.9312 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 111/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Moma Lieux / Unibail-Rodamco / JV – Case M.9263 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 111/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration KKR / Magneti Marelli – Case M.9200 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 111/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Nalka Invest / OneMed – Case M.9277 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 111/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Accuride / Mefro Wheels – Case M.8652 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 111/01](#) – [Case information](#)

■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration SoftBank Group / Altamira – Case M.9290 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 117/06](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Liberty House Group / ArcelorMittal Divestment Businesses – Case M.9172 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 117/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Ansaldo / REPH / JV – Case M.9308 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 117/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration ENGIE / CDPQ / TAG – Case M.9306 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 116/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Colisée / Armonea – Case M.9318 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 111/14](#) – [Case information](#)

BRUSSELS INTERN

■ State Aid Audit

By the end of the year the European Court of Auditors is expected to conclude its independent audit on how EU state aid rules have been applied to the banking sector.

■ Single Market

In the coming months, the European Commission will work on a long-term action plan for better implementation and enforcement of the Single Market rules.

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