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Main Topics

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

LAW

■ Cross-border eCommerce

Negotiators of the Council and the European Parliament agreed on a compromise on a directive on contracts for the supply of digital content and services and a directive on contracts for the online sales of goods. This provisional agreement will now have to be confirmed by the two institutions. Following final adoption, the directives will be published in the EU Official Journal and enter into force 20 days later. The agreed texts will be available soon.

■ EU Energy Efficiency

The Committee of Permanent Representatives endorsed the technical adjustment in the newly revised energy efficiency directive to take account of the UK withdrawal from the EU. The text endorsed is the same as the one adopted by the European Parliament, therefore no negotiations between the co-legislators will be necessary, if the EP confirms its position in plenary. Both the EP and the Council are expected to adopt the decision before the end of March.

[EP report](#)

■ ■ Competition Enforcement in the Pharma Sector

The EC adopted its report on competition enforcement in the pharmaceutical sector. The report, “European competition authorities working together for affordable and innovative medicines”, provides an overview on the enforcement at EU and national level of antitrust and merger rules in the pharma sector.

[EC dedicated page](#)

■ General Block Exemption Regulation

The EC published a roadmap on the targeted modification of the General Block Exemption Regulation in relation to the EU funding programmes. Interested parties can submit their feedback until 27 February.

[EC dedicated page](#)

■ Agricultural State Aid Guidelines

The EC published a roadmap on the review of the Agricultural State Aid Guidelines, which will expire at the end of 2020. Interested parties can submit their feedback until 27 February.

[EC dedicated page](#)

■ Imports of Steel Products

The EC published the regulation that imposes definitive safeguard measures against imports of certain steel products, replacing the provisional measures of last July.

[EC Implementing Regulation 2019/159](#)

■ Cross-border Mobility of Companies

The Committee of Permanent Representatives agreed on the Council's position on the draft directive on cross-

border conversions, mergers and divisions of companies. The Presidency will now start negotiations with the EP with the aim of adopting the draft directive at first reading.

[Council position](#)

■ Whistleblowers

The Committee of Permanent Representatives adopted the Council's position on the directive on the protection of whistle-blowers. Inter-institutional negotiations with the European Parliament can now start. The adopted text will be available soon.

■ 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

■ EU-US Trade Talks

The EC published a report on the implementation of the Joint Statement agreed by the EU and the US. The report provides a detailed overview on the state of play of the trade talks between the two parties. The Joint Statement of last July launched a new phase in the trade relations.

[Report](#)

■ REMIT

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators published the 15th edition of the REMIT Quarterly.

[ACER Remit Quarterly](#)

■ Electricity Transmission System Operators

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators launched a public consultation on the methodologies for Coordinating Operational Security Analysis (CSAM) and for Relevant Asset Outage Coordination (RAOCM) in electricity. Interested parties are invited to submit their comments by 18 February.

[ACER dedicated page](#)

■ Capacity Calculation Regions

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators launched a consultation on the amendments to the determination of capacity calculation regions on the basis of the EU Regulation on Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management. Contributions can be submitted by 17 February.

[ACER dedicated page](#)

■ Electricity Trading

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators published its first monitoring report on the implementation of the Guideline on Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management (CACM Regulation) and the Guideline on Forward Capacity Allocation (FCA Regulation).

[ACER dedicated page](#)

■ Microplastics

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) adopted an opinion on restricting micro-plastics intentionally added to products, covering a variety of sectors from cosmetic industry to agriculture and construction. The opinion will now be scrutinised by ECHA Committees and there will be also a 6-month public consultation. Afterwards, the ECHA Committees will submit their final opinion to the EC, not before Spring next year.

[EC dedicated page](#)

■ Online Disinformation

The EC published the first reports submitted by the signatories of the Code of Practice against disinformation, and called on online platforms to intensify their efforts. A comprehensive assessment is expected by the end of the year.

[EC dedicated page](#)

■ Euro

The EC launched an additional targeted consultation on the international role of the euro in foreign exchange market; in particular the consultation is aimed at financial in-

stitutions and other stakeholders. Contributions can be submitted until end of March.

[EC consultation on the euro and market liquidity in foreign exchange markets](#)

DECISIONS

EC Statement of Objections – EGB

■ Activities auxiliary to financial services

The EC sent Statement of Objections to eight banks for a collusive scheme aimed at distorting competition in European government bonds.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 31 January – Siemens Project Ventures / Veja Mate Offshore Project

■ Production of electricity

The EC approved the acquisition of sole control over Veja Mate Offshore Project GmbH by Siemens Project Ventures GmbH, belonging to the Siemens Group.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 30 January – Sumitomo / Mahindra / JV

■ Manufacture of pesticides and other agrochemical products

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over a newly created joint venture by Mahindra Agri Solutions Limited and Sumitomo Corporation.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 29 January – CVC Capital Partners / K3

■ Wholesale of hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies

The EC approved the acquisition of Ahlsell AB (“K3”) by CVC Capital Partners (“CVC”).

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 28 January – Fosun International / Tom Tailor

■ Wholesale and retail sale of clothing and footwear

The EC approved the acquisition of sole control over Tom Tailor Holding SE by Fosun International Limited.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 28 January – Ivanhoe Cambridge / Macquarie / RHP Manager / RHP Platform

■ Buying and selling of own real estate

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control by Ivanhoe Cambridge, Macquarie Group and RHP Manager over RHP Platform.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 25 January – Aid to LG Chem Wroclaw Energy Sp. z o.o.

■ Manufacture of batteries and accumulators

The EC approved Polish investment aid to chemical company LG Chem for a new electric vehicle batteries plant.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 25 January – AUNDE / Brose / JV

■ Wholesale trade of motor vehicle parts and accessories

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over a newly created joint venture by AUNDE Group SE and Brose Fahrzeugteile GmbH & Co. KG.

[Case information](#)

FROM THE OJEU

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Univar / Nexeo – Case M.9148 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 39/06](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Denso / Aisin / JV – Case M.9228 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 39/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Magna / Getrag Ford Transmissions Slovakia – Case M.9176 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 39/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration The Blackstone Group / Luminor Bank – Case M.9135 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 39/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Haier / Candy – Case M.9139 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 39/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Volkswagen / Daimler / Heycar – Case M.9180 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 38/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Generali CEE / AS – Case M.9056 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 38/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration CVC / Recordati – Case M.9044 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 38/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration WorleyParsons / Jacobs ECR – Case M.9208 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 36/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Carlyle / Sedgwick – Case M.9127 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 36/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration MUFG HD / Akamai / JV – Case M.9214 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 34/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration SK Capital Partners / Schenectady International Group – Case M.9017 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 34/01](#) – [Case information](#)

■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration Schwarz Gruppe / Nord-Westdeutsche Papierrohstoff / JV – Case M.9265 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 39/14](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration ADM / Gleadell Agriculture – Case M.9262 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 38/10](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration RWE / E.ON Assets – Case M.8871 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 38/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration LetterOne / BASF / Wintershall DEA – Case M.8773 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 38/08](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Daikin Industries / Cool International Holding – Case M.9246 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 37/07](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration ENGIE / BPCE / ENGIE PV Curbans – Case M.9269 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 37/06](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Brookfield Asset Management / Johnson Controls Power Solutions Business – Case M.9224 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 37/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration IIF / Kuwait Investment Authority / North Sea Midstream Partners – Case M.9266 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 36/12](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration KKR / China Resources / Genesis Care – Case M.9243 has been published.

[Document 2019/C 36/11](#) – [Case information](#)

BRUSSELS INTERN

■ Transparency Rules

After having adopted the report on the transparency register for lobbyists, the European Parliament is now considering to extend the same rules to the national level.

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