



Europaneews

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/ Main Topics

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

/ Law

■ Vertical Block Exemption Regulation

The EC published the findings of the evaluation of the Vertical Block Exemption Regulation and the Vertical Guidelines. The exercise confirmed that the VBER and the Vertical Guidelines are still relevant, but due to the growth of e-commerce and online platforms, a number of issues that need to be addressed have been identified. Based on these findings, the Commission will launch in the coming weeks an impact assessment to look into the different policy options with a view to having a revision of the rules in place by 31 May 2022. A public consultation on the Commission’s impact assessment is planned for the end of the year.

[Commission Staff Working Document – EC dedicated page](#)

■ State Aid for Broadband Infrastructure Deployment

The EC launched a consultation on the evaluation of the existing European state aid rules on public support for the deployment of broadband networks, specifically the Broadband State Aid Guidelines and the relevant GBER provisions. Contributions can be submitted until 5 January.

[EC consultation page](#)

■ EU-US Trade

The EC published its proposal for a regulation on the elimination of customs duties on certain imports/exports EU/US.

[EC proposal – Annex](#)

■ Rail Sector

The Council agreed its position on the proposal for a regulation establishing temporary derogations in support of the rail sector. The proposal will give Member States the possibility to help the sector by providing relief from certain infrastructure charges for rail companies, in order to mitigate the severe effects of the coronavirus pandemic. The temporary rules will apply from 1 March 2020 to 31 December 2020 and are extendable if necessary. The negotiations between

the Council and the European Parliament are taking place as a matter of urgency.

[Council position](#)

■ 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

■ Strategic Foresight Report

The EC adopted its first Strategic Foresight Report which outlines emerging challenges and opportunities for the European policies. In particular, the report aims to support the Commission in designing future policies and legislation. It will also inform the priorities of the Commission annual and multi-annual work programmes.

[2020 Strategic Foresight Report](#)

■ Disinformation Online

The EC published the assessment of the implementation and effectiveness of the Code of Practice on Disinformation, which aims to ensure transparency of platforms' policies against disinformation. In addition to that, the Commission published the first baseline reports from Facebook, Google, Microsoft, TikTok, Twitter and Mozilla on the actions taken until 31 July. According to this assessment, the Code should be improved in several areas.

[Final Assessment](#) – [Code of Practice](#) – [Baseline Reports](#)

■ Fight to Fraud

The EC released its report on the protection of the EU's financial interests.

[31st Annual Report – Annex](#)

■ VAT

The EC released its report on VAT Gap, which measures the effectiveness of VAT enforcement and compliance measures in each Member State.

[2020 VAT Gap Report](#)

■ Urban Waste Water

The EC published its 10th Report on the Implementation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. The Commission is currently evaluating different policy options to modernise the Directive.

[Report – Annex](#)

■ Electricity – Power Systems

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators launched a public consultation on two methodologies aiming to establish coordination of operational security and remedial actions in the Core capacity calculation region for electricity formed by Austria,

Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Contributions can be submitted until 21 September.

[ACER consultation page](#)

/ Decisions

EC Decision of 10 September – TA Associates / Francisco Partners / Edifecs

■ Wholesale of computers, computer peripheral equipment and software

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control of the whole of Edifecs Inc. by funds managed by TA Associates Management L.P. and funds managed by Francisco Partners Management LP.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 04 September – GHO / MIC / Envision

■ Computer programming activities; data processing

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control of Envision Group Limited by GHO Capital Fund II LP and Mubadala Investment Company PJSC.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 04 September – CPPIB / KKR / Axel Springer

■ Publishing activities; printing of newspapers

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control of Axel Springer SE by Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and KKR & Co. Inc.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 04 September – EQT / TA Associates / IFS

■ Computer programming activities

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over IGT Holding I Sweden AB and IGT Holding II AB by EQT Fund Management S.a.r.l. and TA Associates.

[Case information](#)

/ From the OJEU

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration EQT / TA Associates / IFS – Case M.9920 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 301/02 – Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Cummins / ETC / NPROXX – Case M.9918 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 298/01 – Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration BMW / Daimler / Ford / Porsche / Hyundai / Kia / IONITY – Case M.9572 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 295/01 – Case information](#)

■ **Prior notification of concentrations**

Prior notification of the concentration Kaufland / SCP Real Digital assets – Case M.9932 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 300/08 – Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration KKR / HPS / Monleasing Holdco – Case M.9906 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 300/07 – Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Partners Group / Bridgepoint / Rovensa – Case M.9942 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 300/06 – Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration PPF Group / Central European Media Enterprises – Case M.9669 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 299/10 – Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration HPS / Temasek / Cypress Creek Holdings – Case M.9902 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 299/09 – Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration ZF China / Wolong ZF Automotive Electric Motors JV – Case M.9900 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 298/05 – Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Hella / Minth / JV – Case M.9913 has been published.

[Document 2020/C 298/04 – Case information](#)

/ Brussels intern

■ ■ **Competitiveness Council**

Next week EU Ministers in charge of internal market and industry will have a policy debate on how to strengthen the international competitiveness of the European economy. On the agenda there is the White Paper on Foreign Subsidies, the green and digital transition and the technological sovereignty of the European economy.

[Presidency note](#)

■ **Fiscal Dumping**

This week-end EU Finance Ministers will discuss a reform of the Code of Conduct Group which was set up to prevent unfair tax competition inside Europe.

/ Contact

For suggestions, comments please contact:

Noerr LLP
Boulevard du Régent 47-48
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Head of Regulatory & Governmental Affairs



Dr. Holger Schmitz
T +49 30 20942160
holger.schmitz@noerr.com

Co-Head of Regulatory & Governmental Affairs



Dr. Alexander Birnstiel
T +49 89 28628241
alexander.birnstiel@noerr.com

Regulatory Affairs Advisor



Giovanna Ventura
T +32 2 2745573
giovanna.ventura@noerr.com