



Europeanews

Regulatory & Governmental Affairs

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/ Main Topics

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

/ Law

■ Sustainable Products

The EC released its proposal on sustainable products, which aims to make almost all physical goods on the European market more eco-friendly, circular and energy efficient throughout the whole lifecycle proposing new requirements on durability, reparability, recycling. The proposed regulation will extend the existing Ecodesign Directive to new products. Only a few sectors, such as food, feed, and medicinal products are exempted. Among the measures laid down in this proposal there is the introduction of a Digital Product Passports for all regulated products, incentives for sustainable products, extension of the green public procurement, phasing out of the destruction of unsold consumer goods. Together with the proposal for a regulation, the Commission has also adopted an Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Working Plan for the years 2022-2024 which will include new energy-related products and increase the ambition of those already

regulated. The Commission will launch a public consultation on the categories of products to be selected under the first Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation working plan by the end of the year. However, a preliminary assessment has identified that product categories such as textiles, furniture, mattresses, tyres, detergents, paints, lubricants, as well as intermediate products like iron, steel and aluminium may be suitable candidates for the first workplan. The proposal will now be discussed by the Council and the European Parliament under the ordinary legislative procedure. Until the extended framework enters into force, the Commission will continue its work under the existing Ecodesign Directive.

[EC proposal for a Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products – EC Communication on Sustainable Products – Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Working Plan](#)

■ Sustainable Textiles

The European Commission presented a new strategy with concrete actions to ensure that by 2030 textile products placed on the EU market are more durable, recyclable, free of hazardous substances and produced in respect of social and environmental rights. More precisely, the strategy sets out measures for the entire lifecycle of these products, such as new design requirements, a Digital Product Passport, controls on greenwashing, harmonised rule on extended producer responsibility. Through the Transition Pathway, the Commission will engage with stakeholders to improve resource-efficient manufacturing processes, reuse, repair and other new circular business models in the textiles sector.

[EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles](#)

■ Construction Products

As part of the package of European Green Deal measures there is also the proposal to review the Construction Products Regulation in place since 2011. According to the proposed regulation, manufacturers will have to deliver environmental information about the lifecycle of their products and they will have to comply with several obligations, including the introduction of new product requirements for the design and manufacture of construction products. The proposal will be discussed by the two co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council under the ordinary legislative procedure.

[EC proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation 2019/1020 and repealing Regulation 305/2011](#)

■ Consumer Rights in the Green Transition

The European Commission released also a proposal to update the European consumers rules to make them better informed about the environmental sustainability of products and better protected against greenwashing. In particular, consumers will have a right to be informed on durability and reparability of products. The proposed directive will amend the Consumer Rights Directive and will introduced some changes also to the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive. The Commission's proposal will now be discussed by the European Parliament and the Council under the ordinary legislative procedure.

[EC proposal for a Directive on empowering consumers for the green transition](#)

■ Environmental Action Programme

The Council adopted its position on the 8th Environmental Action Programme, which will serve as a guide for environmental policymaking until 2030. The six thematic priority objectives of the 8th EAP concern: greenhouse gas emissions reductions, adaptation to climate change, a regenerative growth model, a zero-pollution ambition, protecting and restoring biodiversity, and reducing key environmental and climate impacts related to production and consumption. The EAP will now be published in the EU Official Journal and enter into force.

[Council position](#)

■ Global Value Chains

The EC invites interested parties to submit feedback to its proposal for a Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence, which aims to address negative human rights and environmental impacts throughout global value chains. The Commission will summarise all the feedback received and will present them to the European Parliament and the Council to feed the legislative debate on the proposal. Contributions can be submitted until 23 May.

[EC dedicated page – EC proposal for a Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence](#)

■ ■ Trans-Atlantic Data Privacy

Representatives of the EC and the US agreed in principle on a new Trans-Atlantic Data Privacy Framework, which will foster trans-Atlantic data flows and address the concerns raised by the EU Court of Justice in the Schrems II decision of July 2020. The new framework aims to facilitate further EU-US cooperation including through the Trade and Technology Council on digital policies. The agreement now needs to be finalised at the technical level.

[Trans-Atlantic Data Privacy Framework factsheet](#)

■ ■ Access to In-vehicle Data

The EC published a call for evidence and an open public consultation on its proposal on access to vehicle data, which would complement the Data Act published last February. With the call for evidence the Commission invites interested parties to express views on the possible options on the table; while with the public consultation the European executive aims to collect information on the different experience with access to vehicle data. Contributions to both can be submitted

until 21 June. The adoption of the regulation is foreseen for the fourth quarter of the year.

[EC dedicated page](#)

■ 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

■ Customs Union

The Wise Persons Group on Challenges Facing the Customs Union (WPG) presented a report on the future of the EU Customs Union. In its conclusions, the group highlights the need for the Customs Union to be better prepared to address the new challenges, such as growing trade volumes, new trade models, technological developments, the green transition, the evolving geopolitical context and security risks. The recommendations of the WPG will now be discussed with the European Parliament and Member States. The European Commission will set up a Reflection Group involving Member States to debate the recommendations. Based on this input, and on broader consultations with stakeholders, the Commission will present a reform package by the end of the year.

[WPG Report](#)

■ EU Carbon Market

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) published its final report on the EU Carbon Market, analysing the major deficiencies in its functioning. ESMA also presented a number of policy recommendations to improve market transparency and monitoring.

[ESMA Final Report](#)

/ Decision

EC Decision of 30 March – Mercedes-Benz / TotalEnergies / Stellantis / ACC

■ Manufacture of motor vehicles

The EC approved the acquisition of Automotive Cells Company (“ACC”) by Mercedes-Benz, Stellantis and TotalEnergies.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 30 March – LNG supply to Europe

■ Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply

The EC decided to close its antitrust investigation into agreements for the supply of liquefied natural gas (“LNG”) between Qatar Energy and several European gas importers.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 29 March – TowerBrook Capital Partners / New Mountain Capital / Cloudmed Solutions / R1 RCM

■ Manufacture of other food products n.e.c.; other professional, scientific and technical activities n.e.c.

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control of R1 RCM Inc. (“R1”) and Cloudmed Solutions LLC by TowerBrook Capital Partners L.P. (“TCP”) and New Mountain Capital (“NMC”).

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 29 March – A P Moeller Maersk / Senator International

■ Freight air transport; sea and coastal freight water transport

The EC approved the acquisition of Senator International Group by A.P. Moller-Maersk A/S Group (“APMM”).

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 29 March – MGL / MSP / O’Connor / McLaren Racing

■ Other sports activities

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over McLaren Racing Limited by McLaren Group Limited, MSP Racing Holdings L.P. and UBS O’Connor LLC.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 25 March – Waterland / Duvenbeck

■ Freight transport by road

The EC approved the acquisition of Duvenbeck Group by Waterland Private Equity Investment B.V.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 25 March – Waverly / TPG / Asia Healthcare Holdings

■ Hospital activities

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control of Asia Healthcare Holdings Private Limited (“AHH”) by Waverly Pte. Ltd. and TPG Growth III SF PTE. Ltd.

[Case information](#)

/ From the OJEU

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration DUSSUR / SeAH / JV – Case M.10593 has been published.

[Document 2022/C 139/01 – Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration SMS / Altor Fund Manager / Kaefer Holding / Kaeder Isoliertechnik – Case M.10597 has been published.

[Document 2022/C 136/01 – Case information](#)

■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration Blackstone / Vista / Campuslogic Holdings – Case M.10630 has been published.

[Document 2022/C 142/08 – Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Telefonica / Pontegadea / Telxius – Case M.10679 has been published.

[Document 2022/C 142/07 – Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Hapag-Lloyd / Eurogate / Eurogate Container Terminal Wilhelmshaven – Case M.10522 has been published.

[Document 2022/C 142/06 – Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration CENTRAL / SIGMA / SELFRIDGES – Case M.10642 has been published.

[Document 2022/C 139/06 – Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration COVEA / PARTNERRE – Case M.10636 has been published.

[Document 2022/C 139/05 – Case information](#)

/ Brussels intern

■ ETS Reform

EU Member States remain divided on the EC's proposal to create a carbon price for road transport and buildings. In particular some countries, like Poland and Hungary, are particularly concerned about the social impacts of the proposal.

■ Antitrust – Raid

The European Commission carried out unannounced inspections at the premises of several companies active in the supply, transmission and storage of natural gas in Germany, including Gazprom, over concerns of abuse of dominant position.

■ Competition EU and China

Officials and experts from the EU and China met online to discuss their cooperation on competition law and enforcement. The discussions focused on the interaction of the Digital Markets Act and the Digital Services Act with EU competition law and on procedural aspects of merger control. Participants also discussed competition concerns and enforcement in the pharmaceutical sector.

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