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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

### ■ Car Emissions Tests

The Technical Committee of Motor Vehicles of the European Commission voted in favour of the Commission's proposal to strengthen car emissions testing, by improving the Real Driving Emissions (RDE) test and the World Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP). The proposal aims to reduce margins of technical uncertainty in RDE testing and to improve the WLTP procedure by eliminating test flexibilities and introducing on-board fuel and energy consumption monitoring devices. The draft law will now be submitted to the Council and the European Parliament for a three-month scrutiny period. If they do not object to the draft law, it will be adopted by the Commission and published in the EU Official Journal. It would apply from 1 January 2019.

The text of the proposal will be available soon.

### ■ Foreign Direct Investments

The European Economic and Social Committee released an Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation establishing a framework for screening of foreign direct investments into the EU.

[EESC Opinion](#)

### ■ Databases

The EC published an Evaluation of Directive 96/9/EC on the legal protection of databases. The Commission Services consider that engaging in a process of reforming the *sui generis* right would at this stage be largely disproportionate, while they suggest further dialogue with a broader range of stakeholders.

[EC Evaluation](#)

## ■ EU Financial Framework

The EC adopted a new multiannual financial framework (MFF) for the Union, which comprises proposals for the 2021-2027 period. The MFF sets the EU's priorities and the scope for action for the future. This year the Commission also presented a proposal for a new system of own resources of the EU, which will consist of a share of the relaunched Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base, a share of the auctioning revenue of the ETS and a national contribution calculated on the amount of non-recycled plastic packaging waste. Special attention will be dedicated to investments in digital industries (artificial intelligence, cyber-security, supercomputers) and in research and innovation; while funding for the Common Agricultural Policy and Cohesion Policy will be reduced. The Commission will present further legislative proposals for sector-specific financial programmes later in May and June. The Council, acting by unanimity, will take the final decision on the EU budget, with the consent of the European Parliament.

[EC Communication](#) – [Annex](#) – [Spending review](#) – [EC proposal for a Council Regulation on the MFF](#) – [Annex](#) – [EC](#)

[proposal for a Council Decision on the system of own resources of the EU](#) – [Annex](#) – [EC dedicated page](#)

## ■ EU Financial Interest

The European Parliament voted on the resolution on the 2016 annual report on the protection of EU financial interests and the fight against fraud. Pressing issues according to the document are VAT fraud, public procurement irregularities and tobacco smuggling.

[EP resolution](#)

## ■ 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

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### ■ Illegal Content Online

The EC launched a public consultation on measures to improve the effectiveness of the fight against illegal content online. In the coming months the Commission will explore the need for additional steps and it might present further measures by the end of the year. Contributions to this consultation can be submitted until 25 July.

[EC dedicated page](#)

### ■ European Financial Stability and Integration Review

The EC published the annual European Financial Stability and Integration Review (EFSIR). The report, which provides an analysis of recent economic and financial developments in the EU, shows that local capital markets both in terms of size and liquidity are not evenly developed in the Union.

[EFSIR 2018](#)

### ■ Insurance Sector

The European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority published its April Risk Dashboard based on fourth quarter of 2017 data. The reports shows that the risk exposure of the EU insurance sector remained stable.

[Risk Dashboard](#)

### ■ Banking Sector

The European Banking Authority launched a public consultation on its Guidelines on disclosure by credit institutions or information on non-performing and forborne exposures. Contributions can be submitted until 27 July.

[EBA consultation paper](#)

### ■ REMIT

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators published updates on REMIT related matters.

[ACER dedicated page](#)

## DECISIONS

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### EC Decision of 03 May – LKQ / Stahlgruber

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■ **Manufacture of parts and accessories for motor vehicles; retail and wholesale trade of motor vehicle parts and accessories**

The EC partially referred the acquisition of Stahlgruber GmbH by LKQ to the Czech competition authority and cleared the proposed acquisition outside Czech Republic.

[Case information](#)

### EC Decision of 27 April – BASF / Bayer Divestment Business

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■ **Manufacture of pesticides and other agrochemical products**

The EC approved the acquisition of parts of Bayer's Crop Science business by BASF, subject to conditions.

[Case information](#)

### EC Decision of 27 April – Accuride / Mefro Wheels

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

The EC approved the acquisition of Mefro by its competitor Accuride, subject to conditions.

[Case information](#)

### EC Decision of 27 April – Seventh Prolongation of the Credit Union Restructuring and Stabilisation Scheme

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■ **Financial and insurance activities**

The EC approved the seventh prolongation of an Irish scheme aimed at restructuring credit unions.

[Case information](#)

## FROM THE OJEU

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■ **Non-opposition to concentrations**

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Viohalco / Koramic / JV – Case M.8859 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 157/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Black Diamond Capital Management / GST Autoleather – Case M.8846 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 157/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Apollo / JSW / Monnet – Case M.8840 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 151/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration KKR / Unilever Banking Cooking and Spreads Business – Case M.8802 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 151/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Cerberus Capital Management / BBVA (Real Estate Business) – Case M.8782 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 151/02](#) – [Case information](#)

■ **Prior notification of concentrations**

Prior notification of the concentration Stadtwerke Olching / BAG Netz / NG Olching / Olching Verwaltungs GmbH – Case M.8835 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 157/06](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Edenred / UTA – Case M.8857 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 157/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Alps / Alpine – Case M.8833 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 155/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration 3i / FSI / Hermes / Scandlines – Case M.8895 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 155/08](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration OTTP / Carlyle / European Camping Group – Case M.8899 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 153/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Kuraray / PTTGC / Sumitomo / JV – Case M.8739 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 151/10](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration ABB / General Electric Industrial Solutions – Case M.8678 has been published.

## BRUSSELS INTERN

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### ■ European Electronic Communications Code

Trilogue negotiations on the European Parliament's proposal to cap international call rates in the Union, which is part of the new EU telecoms rules, are still on-going. Next meeting among representatives of the European Parliament, Commission and Council is scheduled for mid-May. Some Member States oppose cancelling of charges, as proposed by the Parliament.

### ■ Energy Union

On 3 May, the Council Working Party on Energy examined new compromise text on the proposal for a Regulation on Governance of the Energy Union.

[Presidency revised text](#)

### ■ Emission Performance Standards

On 16 May the Environment Committee of the European Parliament will discuss the draft report on the Commission's proposal on post-2020 CO2 emission standards for new passenger cars and vans. The proposal also includes a bonus mechanism to incentivise zero-and low-emission vehicles by setting benchmarks for 2025 and 2030.

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