



Content

LAW	1
POLITICS/GENERAL	3
DECISIONS	3
FROM THE OJEU	4
BRUSSELS INTERN	5

Main Topics

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

LAW

■ Cross-border Payments

The Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Council (Coreper) agreed Member States' negotiating stance on the Commission's proposal to make cross-border payments in euros cheaper across the EU. The proposal aligns the charges for cross-border payments in euros for services such as credit transfers, card payments or cash withdrawals with the charges for corresponding national payments of the same value in the national currency of the Member State where the payment service provider of the payment service user is located. Inter-institutional negotiations between co-legislators on the text will start as soon as the European Parliament has agreed its position.

[Council position on the proposal amending Regulation 924/2009](#)

■ Cash Controls Regulation

The Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Council (Coreper) endorsed the agreement between the Council and the EP on a draft regulation aimed at improving the existing system of controls on cash entering or leaving the EU. The new regulation will replace Regulation 1889/2005. The definition of cash will also cover instruments, such as cheques, traveller's cheques, prepaid cards and gold. The European Parliament will have to vote on the text, then the Council needs to formally adopt it.

[Final compromise text on the Regulation on controls on cash entering or leaving the Union](#)

■ Energy Efficiency

The European Parliament, Council and Commission reached an agreement on the proposal for a Directive on Energy Efficiency. The new regulatory framework will include an energy efficiency target of 32.5% by 2030, with an upwards revision clause by 2023. The text will have to be

formally approved by the co-legislators. Once endorsed by the Council and the Parliament, the Directive will be published in the Official Journal of the EU and will enter into force 20 days after publication. Member States will have to transpose the new rules into national law 18 months after its entry into force.

[Final compromise text](#)

■ Renewable Energy

The Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Council (Coreper) endorsed the provisional agreement reached on the revision of the renewable energy directive. After the vote of the European Parliament, which is expected in October, the text will have to be finally adopted by the Council. The updated directive will enter into force 20 days after publication in the Official Journal of the EU. Member States will have 18 months to transpose the new rules into national law.

[Final compromise text](#)

■ Governance of Energy Union

The European Parliament, Council and Commission reached an agreement on the proposal for a Regulation on a Governance of the Energy Union on 20 June. The proposal calls for each Member State to prepare national energy and climate plan for the period 2021-2030; it also stresses the importance of regional cooperation for the implementation of such policies. The proposal contains also the goal to achieve net-zero emissions as early as possible. The text will have to be formally approved by the EP and the Council. Then the regulation will be published in the Official Journal of the Union and will enter into force 20 days after publication.

[Final compromise text](#)

■ CO2 Emissions of Heavy-duty Vehicles

The Council adopted a regulation on monitoring and reporting of CO2 emissions and fuel consumption of new heavy-duty vehicles (lorries, buses and coaches). The proposal includes the creation of a central EU register for data on emissions and fuel consumption. The new rules will enter into force 20 days after their publication in the Official Journal.

[Regulation on the monitoring and reporting of CO2 emissions from and fuel consumption of new heavy-duty vehicles](#)

■ Circular Economy

EU Environment Ministers adopted Council conclusions on delivering the EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy,

providing the European Commission with guidance for its implementation.

[Council conclusions](#)

■ Supercomputers

The Council agreed to develop high-performance computing ecosystem by establishing a new joint undertaking, the European high-performance computing ("EuroHPC") joint undertaking. EuroHPC is expected to start operating at the latest by early 2019.

[General approach on the proposal for a Council Regulation on establishing the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking and Statutes of the EuroHPC](#)

■ Aviation Safety

The Council adopted the proposal for a regulation on aviation safety rules, which includes also a revised mandate for the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the first EU-wide rules for civil drones. The European Parliament voted in favour of the compromise deal on 12 June. The regulation will enter into force 20 days after its publication in the EU Official Journal.

[Regulation on common rules in the field of civil aviation](#)

■ EU – Australia / New Zealand Trade Agreements

The Council published the mandates given to the European Commission to negotiate trade agreements with Australia and New Zealand.

[Mandate FTA Australia](#) – [Mandate FTA New Zealand](#)

■ Product Safety Pledge

Alibaba Group, Amazon, eBay and Rakuten-France signed a commitment for faster removal of dangerous products sold on their online marketplaces. In particular, they agreed on responding to Member State authorities' notifications within 2 working days and within 5 working days if notices come from customers. Both parties, the online marketplaces and the EC, will assess the progress every six months and will publish a report.

[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

■ Report on Competition Policy

The EC published the 2017 Report on Competition Policy, which provides information on the legislative initiatives and on the decisions adopted by the Commission.

[Report – Commission Staff Working Document](#)

■ Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans

The EC launched the Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans, aiming to support the transition of the region into a digital economy. The governments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia committed to invest in broadband connectivity and to boost research and innovation.

■ Report on Trade and Investment Barriers

The EC published the annual report on Trade and Investment Barriers. The European executive removed barriers across 13 key EU export and investment sectors including aircraft, automotive, ICT and electronics, machinery, pharma, medical devices, textiles, steel and services.

[Report on Trade and Investment Barriers](#)

■ EU-China Economic and Trade Dialogue

The EU and China held the 7th annual EU-China High-level Economic and Trade Dialogue. The discussions covered

topics such as global governance, trade and investment, geographical indications, digital economy, climate and environmental cooperation. Currently the two parties are negotiating a Comprehensive Agreement on Investment.

[EC dedicated page](#)

■ Banking

The European Banking Authority launched a public consultation on its draft Guidelines on outsourcing, which aims at establishing a more harmonised framework for outsourcing arrangements of all financial institutions in the scope of the EBA's action. Contributions can be submitted until 24 September. The revised guidelines cover credit institutions and investment firms subject to the Capital Requirements Directive.

[EBA consultation paper](#)

■ Brexit

The European Banking Authority published an Opinion on the preparation by financial institutions for the departure of the UK from the EU.

[EBA Opinion](#)

DECISIONS

EC Decision of 28 June – Intermediate Capital Group / Minimax Viking

■ Manufacture of special-purpose machinery

The EC approved the acquisition of Minimax Viking by Intermediate Capital Group.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 27 June – Rhone Zodiac / Fluidra

■ Manufacture of electrical equipment

The EC approved the proposed creation of a joint venture between Zodiac and Fluidra, subject to conditions.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 27 June – LyondellBasell Industries / A. Schulman

■ Manufacture of plastics in primary forms

The EC approved the acquisition of sole control over A. Schulman by LyondellBasell Industries N.V. .

[Case information](#)

EC Investigation of 26 June – BASF / Solvay's EP and P&I Business

■ Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products

The EC opened an in-depth investigation into the proposed acquisition of Solvay's global nylon business by BASF.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 26 June – Erfurt-Weimar Airport

■ Passenger air transport

The EC approved the operating aid for Erfurt-Weimar Airport in Germany.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 22 June – Francisco Partners / Verifone Systems

■ Activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities

The EC approved the acquisition of sole control over Verifone Systems Inc. by Francisco Partners Management LP.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 22 June – BNP Paribas / ABN AMRO Bank Luxembourg

■ Activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities

The EC approved the proposed acquisition of control of ABN AMRO Bank S.A. by BNP Paribas (“BNPP”).

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 22 June – Phoenix PIB Austria / Farmexim and Help Net Farma

■ Wholesale of pharmaceutical goods

The EC approved the acquisition of Farmexim SA and Help Net Farma SA by Phoenix PIB Austria Beteiligungs GmbH.

[Case information](#)

FROM THE OJEU

■ Withdrawal of notifications

The withdrawal of the notification of the concentration Boeing / Safran / JV (auxiliary power units) – Case M.8858 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 228/01](#) – [Case information](#)

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration BNP Paribas / ABN AMRO Bank Luxembourg – Case M.8890 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 223/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Phoenix PIB Austria / Farmexim and Help Net Farma – Case M.8922 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 223/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Permira / Cisco (Target Businesses) – Case M.8945 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 223/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Sumitomo Corporation / Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group / Sumitomo Mitsui Finance and Leasing Company – Case M.8927 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 222/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Blackstone / Cirsa – Case M.8940 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 220/01](#) – [Case information](#)

■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration PAI Partners / M Group Services – Case M.8979 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 228/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration BGZ BNP Paribas / Parts of Raiffeisen Bank Polska – Case M.8967 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 228/08](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Macquarie Group / The Goldman Sachs Group / HES International – Case M.8896 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 228/07](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Blackstone / Thomson Reuters F&R Business – Case M.8837 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 228/06](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration CVC Capital Partners / Mehiläinen Holding – Case M.8975 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 223/10](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Bouygues Construction S.A. / Alpiq InTec AG / Kraftanlagen München GmbH – Case M.8910 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 223/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Thales / Gemalto – Case M.8797 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 222/12](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Cinven / Partner in Pet Foods Holdings – Case M.8936 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 222/11](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration H.I.G. Capital / INEOS (Baleyourt business and ICT business) – Case M.8968 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 220/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Samvardhana Motherson Automotive Systems / Reydel Automotive – Case M.8911 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 220/04](#) – [Case information](#)

BRUSSELS INTERN

■ Copyright Reform

At next week plenary session the European Parliament is expected to adopt by a narrow margin the report on the proposal for a Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market. The lawmakers will also vote on the decision to enter into inter-institutional negotiations with the Council and the European Commission. The draft contains two controversial issues: a neighbouring right for press publishers of 5 years (article 11) and obligations for online content sharing service providers (article 13).

[EP Committee draft report](#)

■ Digital Taxation

EU Heads of State and Prime Ministers urged the Council to take work forward on the Commission proposals on digital taxation.

■ Steel Imports

The European Commission is evaluating the possibility to impose provisional safeguard measures on steel imports by mid-July. The Commission initiated the safeguard investigation in response to US restrictions on steel and aluminium.

■ Dual Quality of Products

The Internal Market Committee of the European Parliament is expected to adopt its draft report on dual quality of products in the single market on 12 July.

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