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- Competition/SA
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- Aviation/Transport
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LAW

■ Copyright Directive

After months of intensive debate outside and inside European Parliament and hundreds of amendments, the law-makers adopted the report on the proposal for a Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market.

Last July the plenary failed to reach a parliamentary consensus on the proposal which was presented by the European Commission in September 2016, mainly because of the divisions on the creation of a new right that would allow press publishers to claim remuneration for the online use of their publications and on the provisions of the article on online content sharing platforms. Both articles 11 and 13 were approved with some amendments (for example the right for press publishers shall not extend to mere hyperlinks which are accompanied by individual words and private and non-commercial uses will not infringe the new right).

Inter-institutional negotiations amongst the Parliament, the Council and the Commission can now start on the legis-

lative proposal with a view to reaching a common position on the final text by the end of the year.

[Copyright in the Digital Single Market Directive](#)

■ State of the Union

The President of the European Commission delivered his 2018 State of the Union Address before the European Parliament. On that occasion he presented priorities for the year ahead in the so-called Letter of Intent, which is a necessary step for the preparation of the Commission Work Programme for 2019. For the Commission President the first priority must be the swiftly adoption (before the European Parliament elections of next May) of the legislative proposals still pending; among them the remaining proposals aimed at completing the Digital Single Market (on copyright, e-privacy, cyber-security); the proposal on fair taxation in the digital economy; the proposal on the screening of foreign direct investment in the EU; the remaining Single Market Strategy proposals (notably the Services and Goods Packages); the proposals to implement

the Energy Union and to complete the Banking Union; and the proposal on the Circular Economy Package.

In addition to that, the Commission would like to focus on some new initiatives: a report on the Strategic Action Plan on batteries; the 4th State of the Energy Union Report; a strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions reduction in accordance with the Paris Agreement; and a coordinated Plan on the development of Artificial Intelligence.

[Letter of Intent](#)

■ Money Laundering

On the occasion of the 2018 State of the Union Address, the President of the EC presented a communication and amended proposal to further strengthen the European framework for prudential and anti-money laundering supervision. The measures will amend the Regulation establishing the European Banking Authority in order to enhance its role in the supervision of the financial sector, also with regard to cross-border cases.

[EC Communication – Amended proposal for a Regulation](#)

■ Euro

In his State of the Union Address the President of the EC proposed to strengthen the international role of the euro and announced that by the end of the year the Commission will present an initiative on that regard.

■ Covered Bonds

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament discussed the draft report on the proposed directive on covered bonds and covered bond public supervision, which will amend Directives 2009/65/EC and 2014/59/EU. The intention of the EU institutions is to establish a pan-European framework for cov-

ered bonds, based on the principle of minimum harmonisation.

[Draft report on the proposal](#)

■ Emission Performance Standards

The Committee on Environment and Public Health of the European Parliament voted on the report on the proposed legislation on emission performance standards for new passenger cars and new light commercial vehicles. The lawmakers voted to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 45% by 2030, instead of the 30% proposed by the European Commission; they also increased the interim goal for 2025 to 20%, while the Commission proposed 15%. The Parliament will vote on the report during the October plenary session. The adopted text will be available soon.

[Draft report on the proposal](#)

■ Dual Quality of Products

The EP voted on the report on the dual quality of products in the Single Market, which aims to ensure that consumers are not misled by unfair commercial practices. The report refers to the new Deal for Consumers and in particular to its proposed changes to the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive. According to the lawmakers, the legislative process should provide a clear definition of what can be considered dual quality and specify how each case should be assessed and handled by the competent authorities.

[Report Dual quality of products in the Single Market](#)

■ 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 Financial System

The Joint Committee of the European Supervisory Authorities published the latest report on risks and vulnerabilities in the EU financial system. The report highlights the return of volatility and the uncertainties around Brexit.

[Joint Committee Report](#)

■ Banking

The European Banking Authority issued a revised list of validation rules in its Implementing Technical Standards on supervisory reporting.

[EBA Validation Rules](#)

■ Energy Market Integrity and Transparency

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators published its conclusions following the 2nd Energy Market Integrity and Transparency Forum held in Slovenia.

[ACER Conclusions](#)

DECISIONS

EC Decision of 13 September – Charlesbank / Partners Group / H-Food Holdings

■ **Manufacture of food products**

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over H-Food Holdings, LLC (“Hearthside”) by Charlesbank Capital Partners LLC (“Charlesbank”) and Partners Group AG.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 12 September – DV4 /ABP / Omers / Real Estate JV

■ **Real estate activities**

The EC approved the acquisition of a newly created joint venture by Oxford DOOR Investor LLP, DV4 Limited and Stichting Depository APG Strategic Real Estate Pool (“APG”).

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 11 September – Advent International Corporation / GE (Distributed Power Business)

■ **Manufacture of engines and turbines, except aircraft, vehicle and cycle engines**

The EC approved the proposed acquisition of sole control by Advent International Corporation over GE Distributed Power Inc., General Electric Austria GmbH and Jenbacher International BV (together “GE Distributed Power Business”).

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 10 September – Eurocar / Vicentini

■ **Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles**

The EC approved the acquisition of Vicentini S.p.a. by Eurocar Italia S.r.l.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 10 September – Biogen / Samsung Biologics / Bioepis JV

■ **Manufacture of pharmaceutical products and preparations**

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control by Biogen over Bioepis currently solely controlled by Samsung Biologics.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 07 September – Keolis / Amey / W&B Rail Franchise

■ **Passenger rail transport, interurban**

The EC approved the acquisition of Wales and Borders Rail Franchise (“W&B Rail Franchise”) by Keolis (UK) Limited (“Keolis”) and Amey Rail Limited (“Amey”).

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 07 September – Akastor / Mitsui & Co. / Mitsui Osk Lines / Akofs Offshore

■ **Support activities for petroleum and natural gas extraction**

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over AKOFS Offshore 1 AS (“AKOFS”) by Akastor AS (“Akastor”), Mitsui & Co. Ltd (“Mitsui”) and Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd. (“MOL”).

[Case information](#)

FROM THE OJEU

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Akastor / Mitsui & Co / Mitsui OSK Lines / AKOFS Offshore – Case M.9065 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 325/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration PIAG / MTIB / Abatec – Case M.8990 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 324/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Mondri / Powerflute – Case M.8831 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 324/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Spigas / Canarbino / Miogas – Case M.8983 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 321/02](#) – [Case information](#)

■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration Synnex / Convergys – Case M.9063 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 325/111](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Bregal Unternehmerkapital / Trendtours Touristik – Case M.9111 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 325/10](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Gauselmann / NOVOMATIC / Spielbank Bad Neuenahr / Spielbank Mainz JV – Case M.8828 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 325/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration SK Capital Partners / Schenectady International Group – Case M.9017 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 325/08](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration KKR / TPG Asia / KMK / Square Peg / Property Guru – Case M.9114 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 322/10](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Adient / Boeing / JV (Aircraft seats) – Case M.8960 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 322/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Lone Star Funds / Imerys TC – Case M.8977 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 322/08](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Vossloh Rail Services / Rhomberg Sersa Rail Holding / Rhomberg Sersa Vossloh (JV) – Case M.8236 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 322/07](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Alphabet / ResMed / JV – Case M.8991 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 321/06](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Magna / Olsa – Case M.8995 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 321/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Tele2 / Com Hem Holding – Case M.8842 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 321/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration CEFC / Rockaway Capital / European Bridge Travel (II) – Case M.9080 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 318/04](#) – [Case information](#)

BRUSSELS INTERN

■ Online Intermediation Services

On 24 September the Internal Market Committee of the European Parliament will debate on the draft report on the proposal for a regulation on fairness and transparency for business users of online intermediation services. The new rules would apply to online intermediation services and online search engines that provide their services to business users and corporate websites established in the EU, and offer goods or services to consumer located in the EU. They would have to implement a set of measures to ensure fairness and transparency in their contractual relations; among other requirements, they would have to set

out in their terms and conditions the main parameters determining ranking. Initial discussions are also on-going at the Council Working Group.

[Draft report on the proposal](#)

■ Cyber-security

In preparation of the first informal trilogue, the Presidency of the Council published a document containing the positions of the three institutions (the Commission, the Parliament and the Council) on the proposal for a Regulation on the EU Cyber-security Agency and on Information and Communication Technology cyber-security certification

("Cyber-security Act"). The fourth column table with compromise suggestions will follow the first meeting.

[Document](#)

■ EU-US Trade Agreement

Representatives of the European Commission and the US administration met in Brussels to discuss a possible way forward in the trade talks for an agreement between the two parties. The goal is to reach an agreement on a framework document before the end of the year.

■ Brexit

At the informal summit of 20 September, EU Heads of State and Government will discuss the possibility of giving additional guidance to Mr Barnier for further negotiations with the UK.

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