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Main Topics

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

LAW

■ 2019 EC Work Programme

The EC presented its Work Programme for 2019. Main priorities for the months ahead are: adopting a very limited number of new initiatives; reaching sweet agreement on the proposals already presented; and working on future perspectives for the Union.

The Commission plans to propose only 15 new initiatives in the coming months, and most of them are non-legislative. In particular, the European executive will put forward a coordinated plan on artificial intelligence and an assessment of the remaining barriers to the Single Market. To complete the Energy Union and tackle climate change the Commission will present a strategy for long-term greenhouse gas emissions reduction and will report on the State of the Energy Union and the Action Plan on Batteries. In addition to that, the Commission plans to switch to qualified majority voting in the fields of energy and climate, taxation and social policy. In the context of Brexit, the EC will adapt energy efficiency targets to the EU at 27 and will present before the end of the year a number of delegated

and implementing acts which are necessary for the adjustment of the Union.

With regard to pending initiatives, the Commission identified 84 priority proposals for adoption by the co-legislators before the European elections. Among them there are the proposals on cyber-security, e-privacy, digital contracts, online intermediation services, copyright, clean energy, digital taxation, screening of foreign direct investments, safe products, consumer protection.

Last but not least, the Commission also suggested to withdraw 17 pending proposals or existing laws.

[EC Work Programme – Annexes](#)

■ Better Regulation

The EC presented a communication on how to strengthen the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality in EU policy-making.

[EC Communication – Annexes](#)

■ Single-Use Plastics

The EP in plenary adopted the report on the proposal for a directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment. The proposal, which was presented by the European Commission last May, would introduce a series of measures for the prevention and management of waste in relation to some single-use plastics. The lawmakers widened the scope of the directive targeting also takeaway packaging, bottles and cigarette butts.

In the Council the proposal is currently being considered at working party level.

[EP report](#)

■ Trade Agreements

The Permanent Representatives Committee of the Council (Coreper) agreed on the Council's position on the proposal for a regulation implementing the safeguard clauses and other mechanisms allowing for the temporary withdrawal of preferences in certain agreements concluded between the EU and certain third countries. These bilateral safeguard measures aim to prevent risks to a particular domestic industry, which is particularly vulnerable, from an in-

crease in imports. The EP agreed on its report on 11 October. Inter-institutional negotiations are expected to start soon with the aim of finding an agreement by the end of the year. The agreed text will be available soon.

■ Type Approval of Motor Vehicles

The Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Council (Coreper) agreed on a mandate to start negotiations with the European Parliament on new rules for the type-approval of motor vehicles. The draft regulation sets out the conditions for obtaining approval and its effects on the placing on the market, registration or entry into service of such vehicles, systems, components and separate technical units. Inter-institutional negotiations will start once the Parliament has finalised its position.

[Council negotiating mandate](#)

■ 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

■ Connected and Automated Mobility

The EC launched a public consultation on connected and automated mobility (CAM). Contributions can be submitted until 4 December and they will feed into a recommendation that shall be adopted by the end of the year / beginning of 2019. Three are the main aspects of this consultation: data governance, cyber-security and use of 5G commercial bands.

[EC dedicated page](#)

The Commission also published its roadmap on connected and automated mobility, inviting interested parties to submit their feedback until 16 November. The Commission will summarise the input received on a synopsis report which will feed into this recommendation planned for the end of the year/beginning of 2019.

[EC dedicated page](#)

■ Competition in Agriculture

The EC published the first report on the application of EU competition rules to the agricultural sector.

[EC report](#)

■ EBA Work Programme

The European Banking Authority published its annual work programme for 2019, which highlights the key strategic areas of work up to 2021.

[EBA Work Programme](#)

■ Energy Price

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) and the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) presented the Annual Report on the Results of Monitoring the Internal Electricity and Natural Gas Markets.

[Dedicated page](#)

■ REMIT

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators published the 14th edition of the REMIT Quarterly and the 22nd edition of REMIT Questions and Answers.

[REMIT Quarterly](#) – [REMIT Q&A](#)

■ ACER Work Programme

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators launched a consultation on its 2020 Work Programme, in

order to collect opinions on which areas the Agency should focus its efforts. The work programme has to be submitted to the EC by the end of January.

[ACER dedicated page](#)

■ Gas Capacity Booking Platform

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators published a Decision establishing GSA as the booking platform to be used at Mallnow interconnection point (IP) and the

“GCP” virtual interconnection point (VIP) on both sides of the German-Polish border.

[ACER decision](#)

DECISIONS

EC Investigation – Ryanair at Frankfurt-Hahn Airport

■ Aviation sector

The EC opened an in-depth investigation to assess whether measures in favour of Ryanair at the airport of Frankfurt-Hahn are in line with EU state aid rules.

[Case information SA.43260](#)

EC Decision of 25 October – BC Partners / VetPartners

■ Veterinary activities

The EC approved the acquisition of indirect sole control over by BC Partners LLP over VetPartners Group Limited.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 25 October – Saudi Aramco / ARLANXEO

■ Manufacture of synthetic rubber

The EC approved the acquisition of sole control over ARLANXEO Holding B.V. by the Saudi Arabian Oil Company (“Saudi Aramco”).

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 25 October – SEGRO / PSPIB / Warehouse

■ Real estate activities

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over a distribution warehouse in Spain by SEGRO and Public Sector Pension Investment Board (“PSPIB”).

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 24 October – Delta Electronics / Delta Electronics Thailand

■ Manufacture of electric motors, generators, transformers and electricity distribution

The EC approved the acquisition of Delta Electronics (Thailand) Public Company Ltd. by Delta Electronics Inc.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 23 October – Aid to Apple

■ Tax base reduction

The EC decided to withdraw its action against Ireland, since the country confirmed the full recovery of the illegal state aid granted to Apple.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 23 October – Structural aid measure for rail/inland waterways to and from Flemish seaports

■ Freight rail and water transport

The EC approved the public support to encourage the shift of freight traffic from road to rail and inland waterways in Belgium.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 23 October – Biogas production, remuneration and commercialisation in Luxembourg

■ Environment and energy

The EC approved the extension of an aid scheme to support biogas production in Luxembourg for six years.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 22 October – HP / Apogee

■ Manufacture of computers; repair of computers; wholesale of computers

The EC approved the acquisition of Apogee Group Limited (“Apogee”) by HP Inc.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 22 October – Booking Holdings / HotelsCombined

■ Travel agency, tour operator and related activities

The EC approved the acquisition of sole control by Booking Holdings Inc. over HotelsCombined Pty Ltd.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 19 October – Installations de production d’électricité

■ Renewable energy

The EC approved measures to support electricity production from renewable sources for self-consumption in France until 2020.

[Case information](#)

FROM THE OJEU

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration ORIX Aviation Systems / Bohai / Avolon – Case M.9103 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 388/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration CK Asset Holdings / CK Infrastructure Holdings / APA – Case M.9100 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 388/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Carlyle / Investindustrial / B&B Italia / Louis Poulsen / Flos – Case M.9102 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 388/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Advent International Corporation / KN Group – Case M.9079 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 384/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Omers / BCI / AIMCo / PGGM / CPPIB / Puget Holdings – Case M.9109 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 382/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration EQT Fund Management / Saur – Case M.9092 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 382/01](#) – [Case information](#)

EC Decision of 19 October – Microsoft / Github

■ Computer Programming Activities

The EC approved the proposed acquisition of GitHub by Microsoft.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 19 October – CVC / Messer Group / Divestment Business

■ Manufacture of industrial gases

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control of industrial gas assets and businesses in North and South America, and global helium sourcing contracts and related assets (“Divestment Business”) by CVC Capital Partners SICAV-FIS S.A. (“CVC”) and Messer Group GmbH (“Messer”).

[Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Vallourec Tubes / Bpifrance Group / Vallourec Umbilicals – Case M.9096 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 380/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Bain Capital Private Equity / Esure Group – Case M.9104 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 380/01](#) – [Case information](#)

■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration Brookfield / M Finance Capital / ECLA Paris Massy-Palaiseau Companies – Case M.9161 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 388/14](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration ArcelorMittal / Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation / Essar Steel India – Case M.9146 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 388/13](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Energizer / Spectrum Brands (Battery and Portable Lighting Business) – Case M.8988 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 388/12](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration ICF Novedis / CDC Habitat / Swiss Life REIM / Fonciere Vesta – Case M.9132 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 388/11](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Quaker / Global Houghton – Case M.8492 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 388/10](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Knauf / Armstrong – Case M.8832 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 384/07](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration E.ON / Clever / UFC Scandinavia JV – Case M.9049 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 384/06](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Berge / GEFCO / JV – Case M.8881 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 384/05](#) – [Case information](#)

BRUSSELS INTERN

■ Vertical Block Exemption

The European Commission is expected to launch a public consultation on the vertical block exemption regulation and its guidelines by Spring next year.

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