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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

### ■ ■ Screening of Foreign Investments

Representatives of the Council and of the European Parliament reached a political agreement on an EU framework for a far-reaching system to coordinate scrutiny of foreign investments into Europe. According to the proposal, the Commission will investigate foreign investments in critical sectors to protect Europe's strategic interests. During the negotiations, the list of critical sectors has been extended in order to include: media, land and real estate, data processing, water-supply infrastructure, aerospace, health, nanotechnology, electric batteries and the supply of food. The aim of the proposed regulation is to ensure that foreign investments do not pose a threat to critical infrastructure, key technologies or access sensitive information. The agreement will now be submitted to the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Council for political endorsement, then it will have to be adopted by the European Parliament (most likely in February) and the Council.

The Commission is also completing a detailed analysis of the foreign direct investment flows into the Union and has

set up a coordination group with Member States to monitor the situation and identify common concerns.

The agreed text will be available soon.

[Council position](#) – [European Parliament resolution](#)

### ■ Energy Union

The negotiators of the Council and of the European Parliament reached a political agreement on a proposal to improve the EU's risk preparedness in the electricity sector. The new regulation will provide common methods for assessing risks at national and regional level and will set up a new framework for a more systematic monitoring of security of supply issues via the Electricity Coordination Group. Now the text will have to be formally approved by the Parliament and the Council; and afterwards the regulation will be published in the Official Journal of the Union and will immediately enter into force. The agreed text will be available soon.

[Four column document](#)

### ■ Law Enforcement

The Committee of Permanent Representatives adopted the Council negotiating position on the proposal for a directive laying down the rules facilitating the use of financial and other information for the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of certain criminal offences, which will repeal Council Decision 2000/642/JHA. Negotiations with the European Parliament will start once the latter has adopted its position. The agreed text will be available soon.

[EC proposal](#)

### ■ Competition in Air Transport

The Council and the European Parliament reached a provisional political agreement on the legislative proposal on new measures to safeguard competition in aviation addressing unfair practices in the supply of air services, which will repeal Regulation 868/2004. The agreement will have to be formally endorsed by the Council and the European Parliament in plenary. The agreed text will be available soon.

[Four-column document](#)

### ■ Recycled Plastics

The EC has given a preliminary assessment of the voluntary pledges received by the industry to boost the market for recycled plastics. In the coming months the Commission

will analyse them in more detail and publish the results of this exercise in the first quarter of next year.

[EC dedicated page](#)

### ■ Mutual Recognition of Goods

The Council and the European Parliament reached a provisional agreement on the proposal to facilitate the circulation of goods across the Union, improving the application of the mutual recognition principle. The new regulation will enhance the role of national product contact points and introduce a new voluntary mutual recognition declaration. The provisional agreement will have to be endorsed by the two co-legislators before it is formally adopted. The agreed text will be available soon.

[Council general approach – EP report](#)

### ■ Standardisation

The EC presented an Action Plan on Standardisation which lists four key actions to increase the efficiency and transparency of the European standardisation system.

[EC Communication on Harmonised Standards](#)

### ■ 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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### ■ Energy

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators invited third parties to send observations on the incremental capacity project proposal for the gas interconnection point (HUAT project) between Austria and Hungary by 18 January 2019.

[ACER notice](#)

### ■ Banking

The European Banking Authority published its final draft Regulatory Technical Standards on the specification of the notion of economic downturn to be taken into account when estimating the loss given default and the conversion factors.

[EBA final draft](#)

## DECISIONS

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### EC Investigation – Airline ticket distribution

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#### ■ Ticket distribution services

The EC opened a formal investigation to assess whether agreements between the booking system providers Amadeus and Sabre, on one side, and airlines and travel agents, on the other, violate EU antitrust rules.

[Case information AT.40617 \(Amadeus\)](#) – [Case information AT.40618 \(Sabre\)](#)

### EC Decision of 21 November – Banca Generali / Saxo Bank / JV

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#### ■ Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding

The EC approved the proposed creation of a joint venture by Banca Generali S.p.A. and Saxo Bank A/S.

[Case information](#)

### EC Decision of 20 November – Takeda / Shire

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#### ■ Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products

The EC approved the acquisition of Shire by Takeda Pharmaceutical Company, subject to conditions.

[Case information](#)

### EC Decision of 19 November – PSPIB / Brookfield / Quadreal / BREP Brazil / Brookfield Brazil Retail

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#### ■ Renting and operating of own or leased real estate

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over Brookfield Brazil Retail Fundo de Investimentos em Partici-

pacoes Multiestrategia by Public Sector Pension Investment Board (“PSPIB”), Brookfield Asset Management Inc. (“Brookfield”), QuadReal Property Group Limited Partnership and BREP Brazil Private Limited.

[Case information](#)

### EC Decision of 16 November – ArcelorMittal / Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation / Essar Steel India

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#### ■ Manufacture of basic metals

The EC approved the acquisition of Essar Steel India by ArcelorMittal S.A. and the Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation (“NSSMC”).

[Case information](#)

### EC Decision of 16 November – Getec Wärme & Effizienz / Pionierwerk

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#### ■ Trade of electricity

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control by GETEC Wärme & Effizienz GmbH and Stadtwerke Hanau over a newly created joint venture, PionierWerk Hanau GmbH.

[Case information](#)

### EC Decision of 16 November – Fricke Holding / Jungheinrich / JV

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#### ■ Wholesale of other machinery and equipment

The EC approved the creation of a joint venture by Fricke Holding GmbH and Jungheinrich AG.

[Case information](#)

## FROM THE OJEU

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#### ■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration ICF Novedis / CDC Habitat / Swiss Life REIM / Fonciere Vesta – Case M.9132 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 422/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration HG / Vista / Allocate – Case M.8984 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 422/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Tenneco / Federal Mogul – Case M.8949 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 418/01](#) – [Case information](#)

#### ■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration BC Partners / United Group – Case M.9152 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 423/10](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Santander Group / Hyundai Motor Company Group / JV – Case M.9166 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 423/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Engie / EDPR / Repsol / Windplus – Case M.9217 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 423/08](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited / Eurolife Erb Insurance Group Holdings S.A. – Case M.9193 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 421/08](#) – [Case information](#)

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

[Document 2018/C 421/07](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Engie / Predica Prevoyance Dialogue du Credit Agricole / Omnes Capital / Equinox VIIIA – Case M.9181 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 421/06](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Engie / Predica Prevoyance Dialogue du Credit Agricole / Omnes Capital / 4 Windfarms – Case M.9184 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 421/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration E.ON / Helen / Virta – Case M.9032 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 420/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Dana / Oerlikon Drive Systems – Case M.9124 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 420/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration MET Renewables / O Zone / NIS Energowind – Case M.9133 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 418/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Sharp Corporation / Skytec UMC Ltd – Case M.9194 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 418/08](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Haier / Candy – Case M.9139 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 418/07](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration The Carlyle Group / Marriott International / Penha Longa – Case M.9186 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 418/06](#) – [Case information](#)

## BRUSSELS INTERN

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### ■ Online Platform

The Council is expected to agree on a general approach on the proposal for a regulation on promoting fairness and transparency for business users of online intermediation services during its meeting of 29 November. The EP has not yet voted on its report.

[Draft general approach](#)

### ■ Internal Market in Natural Gas

The Council released a revised text of the proposal for a Directive concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas, amending Directive 2009/73/EC. Once the Council has agreed its negotiating stance, inter-institutional negotiations with the European Parliament will start.

[Revised text](#)

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