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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

■ Platform-to-Business Regulation

The Council adopted its general approach on the proposal for a regulation on promoting fairness and transparency for business users of online intermediation services. The EC presented its proposal for a platform-to-business regulation on 26 April 2018, with the aim to promote predictability and legal certainty in the online platform economy. Once the EP has adopted its position, inter-institutional negotiations can start. The EU institutions expect to reach a final agreement on the text before the European election of next May. The proposed regulation is the first EU legislative act that addresses relations between online platforms and the businesses.

[General approach](#)

■ Covered Bonds

The Committee of Permanent Representatives agreed on the Council's position on an EU framework (a directive and a regulation) for covered bonds. The European Parliament

is expected to confirm its negotiating position in December; inter-institutional negotiations will then start.

[Council compromise text on the directive](#) – [Council compromise text on the regulation](#)

■ Capital Markets Union

The EC published a Communication calling for renewed political engagement to complete the remaining building blocks of the Capital Markets Union ahead of the European election next May.

[EC Communication](#) – [Annex](#)

■ State Aid

The Council adopted a regulation which will amend Regulation 2015/1588 on the application of EU state aid rules to certain categories of horizontal aid. The new categories of national subsidies that will be exempted from the application of the rules are national funds combined with EU centrally managed funds; and national funds for projects sup-

ported by the European Territorial Cooperation Programme. The regulation will apply as from the 20th day after its publication in the EU Official Journal.

[Council Regulation on the application of Articles 107 and 108 TFEU to certain categories of horizontal State aid](#)

■ Horizontal Safeguard Regulation

The Council and the EP negotiators reached a political agreement on the regulation implementing the safeguard clauses for the temporary withdrawal of preferences in certain trade agreements, the so-called EU horizontal safeguard regulation. The agreement will now be submitted to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for political endorsement, then it needs to be formally approved by the co-legislators. The agreed text will be available soon.

[EC proposal – Annex](#)

■ Climate 2050

The EC adopted its strategic long-term vision for a competitive and climate neutral economy by 2050. The strategy covers nearly all EU policies and is in line with the Paris Agreement.

[EC dedicated page](#)

■ Persistent Organic Pollutants

The Council agreed its position on the recast regulation on persistent organic pollutants, the UN-agreed list of highly toxic substances. Inter-institutional negotiations with the European Parliament can now start. The agreed text will be available soon.

[EC proposal for a Regulation – Annex](#)

■ Better Regulation

The EC published a review of its activities for the simplification of legislation and the reduction of regulatory burdens in 2018, as part of its Better Regulation Agenda.

[2018 Annual Burden Survey](#)

■ Drones

The EC, EASA, national authorities and the industry adopted a declaration calling on all the interested parties to continue working for the delivery of a common European drone services market.

[Amsterdam Drones Declaration](#)

■ Safety Regulation for Cars

The Council reached a general approach on the proposal for the safety of vehicles, which is part of the 3rd Mobility Package. Negotiations between co-legislators will begin only after the European Parliament has adopted its position. The new regulation will update existing rules on car safety, in particular the General Safety Regulation 661/2009. The new rules will become mandatory only after three years from the adoption of the regulation.

[General approach on the proposal for a Regulation on type-approval requirements for motor vehicles as regards their general safety](#)

■ Compliance and Enforcement Regulation

The Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Council agreed on the Member States' position on a new regulation on enforcement for non-compliant products. The Council will now start negotiations with the EP with the aim of reaching a rapid adoption of the proposed regulation. The agreed text will be available soon.

[EC proposal for a Regulation on compliance with and enforcement of Union harmonisation legislation on products](#)

■ 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

■ Battery Applications

The EC published a report on Raw Materials for Battery Applications, which aims to launch an informed discussion with Member States and stakeholders on the implementation of the Battery Action Plan.

[EC report](#)

■ Banking Union

The EC presented its third Progress Report on the reduction of non-performing loans .

[EC Progress Report – Staff Working Document](#)

DECISIONS

EC Decision of 29 November – Mondi Steti / Holzindustrie Maresch / ECO-Investment / Labe Wood

■ Sawmilling and planning of wood

The EC approved the creation of a joint venture by Mondi Steti, Holzindustrie Maresch and ECO-Investment.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 29 November – Suzano Papel e Celulose / Fibria Celulose

■ Manufacture of pulp, paper and paperboard

The EC approved the acquisition of Fibria by Suzano, subject to conditions.

[Case information](#)

EC Investigation – NIDEC / Whirlpool (Embraco Business)

■ Manufacture of other pumps and compressors

The EC opened an in-depth investigation into Nidec's proposed acquisition of Embraco, the refrigeration compressor business of Whirlpool.

[Case information](#)

EC Investigation – APERAM / VDM

■ Manufacture of basic iron and steel and of ferro-alloys

The EC opened an in-depth investigation into proposed acquisition of VDM by Aperam.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 27 November – IFM / Trafigura / Simba Holdings

■ Cargo handling

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over Simba Holding S.a.r.l by IFM Investors Pty Ltd and Trafigura Group Pte Ltd.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 27 November – REHAU / MB Barter & Trading

■ Manufacture of plastics products

The EC approved the acquisition of sole control over MB Barter & Trading Holding AG by REHAU Verwaltungszentrale AG.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 27 November – T-Mobile NL / Tele2 NL

■ Information service activities

The EC approved the proposed acquisition of Tele2 NL by T-Mobile NL.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 26 November – Installations for Electricity Production

■ Renewable energy

The EC approved public support for innovative installations for electricity production from solar energy in France.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 23 November – Sale of HSH Nordbank AG

■ Restructuring undertakings in difficulty

The EC approved the sale of HSH Nordbank by the German Länder of Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein to private investors.

[Case information](#)

FROM THE OJEU

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Rubis / Phillips 66 / Zeller & Cie – Case M.8689 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 432/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Fricke Holding / Jungheinrich / JV – Case M.9088 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 429/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Microsoft / GitHub – Case M.8994 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 428/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Neste / Demeter Animal Fats and Proteins – Case M.8823 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 425/01](#) – [Case information](#)

■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration China Reinsurance Group Corporation / Chaucer – Case M.9150 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 432/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration MinebeaMitsumi / U-Shin – Case M.9212 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 430/07](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration TCCC / Costa – Case M.9122 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 429/06](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration CapMan / NH-Amundi /Green Investment Group / Cloud Snurran – Case M.9143 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 429/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Cerberus Group / Marke Creative Merchandise – Case M.9189 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 428/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Sumitomo / Metal One / JV – Case M.9177 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 428/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Carlyle / Apollo – Case M.9120 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 425/12](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration ADM / Neovia – Case M.9123 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 425/11](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration SoftBank / Toyota Motor Corporation / MONET Technologies JV – Case M.9158 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 425/10](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration CVC / MUFG / Ngern Tid Lor – Case M.9159 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 425/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Carlyle / Sedgwick – Case M.9127 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 425/08](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Amcor / Bemis – Case M.9094 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 425/07](#) – [Case information](#)

BRUSSELS INTERN

■ Clean Vehicles

The Presidency of the Council released a progress report on the proposal for a Directive on the promotion of clean and energy-efficient vehicles, which amend Directive 2009/33/EC.

[Progress report](#)

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