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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

### ■ Derivatives Rules

The EC proposed some changes to improve the functioning of the over-the-counter derivatives market in the EU. The Commission intends to reduce regulatory burdens and to ensure that the European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR) achieves its objective of reducing systemic risk. In particular, the proposal aims to ease the reporting requirements for parties trading derivatives; it will also extend exemptions for financial and non-financial counterparties when trading these derivatives. The Commission also adopted a Communication setting out its intentions with regard to future legislative proposals that will be presented in June, in order to enhance the common EU supervisory arrangements for CCPs. The reforms will enter into force as soon as the co-legislators, the Council and the EP, approve them.

[EC Proposal](#) – [Annex](#) – [EC Communication](#)

### ■ EU Single Market

The EC presented a package of measures to enhance compliance and practical functioning of the EU Single Market. The package contains three initiatives:

- the Single Digital Gateway, a single digital entry point to information, online administrative procedures and assistance services;
- the Single Market Information Tool (SMIT);
- a SOLVIT Action Plan to increase its use by citizens and businesses.

The SMIT aims to further contribute to the Commission's enforcement work, ensuring the right application of EU law in a wide range of sectors: financial services, telecommunications, industry, environment, energy, transport. In fact, it will allow the Commission to collect defined data in cases of serious difficulties. This proposal expands existing powers conferred to the Commission by article 337 TFEU.

These proposals will now be sent to the Council and the EP for adoption.

[Proposal for a Single Digital Gateway – Proposal for a Single Market Information Tool](#) – [Solvit Action Plan](#)

#### ■ VAT on e-books

The Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee of the European Parliament voted on a report that allows Member States to reduce VAT on e-books, which would bring them in line with printed publications. The proposal will now be voted by Parliament as a whole on 31 May or 1 June.

[EC Proposal for a Directive amending Directive 2006/112/EC](#) – [Committee Draft Report](#)

#### ■ Anti-money Laundering

The Economic and Monetary Affairs and Civil Liberties Committees of the European Parliament rejected for the second time the proposal to update a blacklist of countries linked to money laundering and terrorism financing. The delegated act now goes to the plenary for the final vote. The text will be available soon.

#### ■ Sharing Economy

The Internal Market Committee of the European Parliament voted on a non-binding resolution in response to the Communication on a “European Agenda for collaborative

economy” presented by the European Commission last year. In this resolution, MEPs stressed the need to address regulatory grey areas that cause significant differences among Member States. Next step is the vote by the full House at the 12-15 June plenary session. The final text will be available soon.

[Committee Draft Report](#)

#### ■ Anti-dumping Methodology

The Council agreed its negotiating position on a new, country-neutral methodology for assessing market distortions in third countries, based on rules established by the WTO. Trilogue discussions with the negotiators of the European Parliament will start as soon as the full House endorses its own negotiating position. The text will be available soon. The EU institutions are also revising the trade defence instruments.

#### ■ 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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#### ■ Brexit

Following the adoption by the European Council of political guidelines on 29 April, the College of Commissioners sent a recommendation to the Council to open the Article 50 negotiations with the UK. The first formal meeting between negotiators of both sides is expected for June, right after the UK general election.

[Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the EC to open negotiations](#)

#### ■ Credit and Market Risk

The European Banking Authority published an amended version of its Implementing Technical Standards (ITS) on benchmarking of internal approaches.

[EBA dedicated page](#)

#### ■ Gas Storage

The Council of European Energy Regulators published its report on Barriers for gas storage product development.

[CEER Report](#)

## DECISIONS

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### **EC Decision of 04 May – Volkswagen Financial Services / LogPay Financial Services / LogPay Transport Services**

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#### ■ Financial service activities

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over LogPay Transport Services by LogPay Financial and Volkswagen Financial Services.

[Case information](#)

### **EC Decision of 04 May – Renewable Energy in France**

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#### ■ Production of electricity

The EC approved three schemes to support electricity production from small-scale onshore wind (SA.47205), solar (SA.47623) and sewage gas installations (SA.43485) in France.

[Case information](#)

### **EC Decision of 03 May – E-book MFNs and related matters**

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#### ■ Retail sale of books in specialised stores

The EC adopted a decision that renders legally binding the commitments offered by Amazon on a number of clauses in its distribution agreements with e-book publishers in Europe.

[Case information](#)

### **EC Decision of 03 May – Pillarstone / Famar**

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#### ■ Manufacture of pharmaceutical preparations

The EC approved the acquisition of Famar by Pillarstone.

[Case information](#)

### **EC Decision of 03 May – Peter Cremer Holding / Hage / König Transportgesellschaft**

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#### ■ Freight transport by road

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over the undertaking König Transportgesellschaft mbH by the German undertakings Deutsche Tiernahrung Cremer GmbH & Co. KG (“DTC”) and HaGe Logistik GmbH.

[Case information](#)

### **EC Decision of 03 May – CPPIB / PSPIB / Waiheke**

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

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control by Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (“CPPIB”) and Public Sector Pension Investment Board (“PSPIB”) of PSPIB Waiheke (“Waiheke”) of New Zealand.

[Case information](#)

### **EC Decision of 03 May – ELO / AP1 / Real Estate Portfolio in Finland**

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#### ■ Real estate activities

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control of a portfolio of ten real estate properties in Finland by Elo Mutual Pension Insurance Company (“ELO”) and Första AP-fonden (“AP1”).

[Case information](#)

### **EC Decision of 03 May – Exemption from the excise duty of the fuel used in the inland waterway transportation**

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#### ■ Inland passenger and freight water transport

The EC approved the Slovak scheme to support inland waterway transportation by exempting all commercial operators from paying excise duty on fuel for inland waterway boats.

[Case information](#)

### **EC Decision of 29 April – Bain Capital / MKM Building Supplies**

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#### ■ Retail sale of new goods in specialised stores

The EC approved the acquisition of M.K.M. Building Supplies by Bain Capital Investors.

[Case information](#)

### **EC Decision of 29 April – Resolution of Italian Banks**

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#### ■ Financial and insurance activities

The EC approved the sale of three Italian bridge banks Nuova Banca Marche, Nuova Banca Etruria and Nuova Carichiati to Unione di Banche Italiane (UBI Banca).

[Case information](#) – [Case information](#) – [Case information](#)

## FROM THE OJEU

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### ■ Medical Devices

Regulations (EU) 2017/745 and 2017/746 of the EP and of the Council of 5 April 2017 on medical devices and on in vitro diagnostic medical devices have been published.

[Regulation 2017/745](#) – [Regulation 2017/746](#)

### ■ Toys

Commission Directive (EU) 2017/774 of 3 May 2017 amending, for the purposes of adopting specific limit values for chemicals used in toys, Appendix C to Annex II to Directive 2009/48/EC of the EP and of the Council on the safety of toys, as regards phenol has been published.

[Commission Directive 2017/774](#)

### ■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Duferco Energia / Energhe – Case M.8445 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 141/01](#) – [Case information](#)

### ■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration RAG Stiftung / Evonik Industries / Huber Silica – Case M.8348 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 141/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration CWS-boco / Rentokil Initial Target Businesses – Case M.8399 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 139/08](#) – [Case information](#)

## BRUSSELS INTERN

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### ■ ETS

A second trilogue will take place on 30 May on the reform of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. The most sensitive issues are on the agenda. Two technical meetings have already been scheduled to address a number of practical issues such as benchmarks, qualitative assessment and dynamic allocation.

### ■ Digital Policies

Ministers of 15 Member States (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and the UK) sent a letter to the European Commission asking to remove barriers to digital trade, in particular on data localisation requirements that cannot be objectively justified.

### ■ Tax Evasion

The European Commission is expected to present a proposal for a new legislation on tax evasion before the Summer. The new legislative act will contain measures to combat all potential harmful tax practices and the role played by intermediaries. The Commission is also working on a blacklist of tax havens to be published by the end of the year, while the list presented by the executive last year has been rejected by the European Parliament because of its narrow scope.

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