



Content

LAW	1
POLITICS/GENERAL	2
DECISIONS	2
FROM THE OJEU	3
BRUSSELS INTERN	4

Main Topics

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

LAW

■ Brexit

The UK triggered the formal two-year negotiation period formally notifying its intention to withdraw from the EU. A Special European Council Summit will be held on 29 April in order to issue the negotiating guidelines. The Council is drafting these guidelines which will serve as the basis for negotiations. The European Parliament is expected to adopt its resolution on the Brexit negotiations during its plenary session of the beginning of April. The European Commission expects a negotiating period of 18 months; October next year is the latest feasible date to table a draft agreement with the UK. This will allow enough time for the Council and the EP to approve and vote it. Any extension of this period requires the unanimous agreement of the EU and the UK. In the notification letter the Prime Minister of the UK proposes a “bold and ambitious” Free Trade Agreement between the UK and the EU, covering crucial sectors such as financial services and network industries.

[Dedicated page](#)

■ Anti-tax Avoidance Directive

The Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee of the EP adopted its report on the proposal to amend Directive 2016/1164 as regards hybrid mismatches with third countries. The intention of the Members of the EP is to correct the mechanism used by corporation to avoid paying tax on profits by exploiting the differences in the tax systems of the EU and third countries. The report now goes to the Council for its consideration.

The final text will be available soon

[Draft report](#)

■ Bank Recovery and Resolution

The Council decided not to object to a Commission Regulation on classes of arrangements to be protected in a partial property transfer under article 76 of Directive 2014/59/EU on the recovery and resolution of credit institutions and

investment firms. The regulation can now enter into force, unless the EP objects.

[Commission Delegated Regulation](#)

■ Safety of Toys

The Council adopted the Commission proposal to align the current migration limits for lead in toys with the latest scientific data. The EP did not object to the adoption of the new migration limits.

[Council Directive](#)

■ 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

■ Digital Single Market Strategy

The Council had an exchange of views on the work done at technical level on the proposal for a directive on contracts for the supply of digital content, in particular with regard to the rules on conformity and remedies. The Maltese Presidency is confident that the Council can adopt its position by June, in order then to start negotiations with the EP. The directive aims to regulate contracts for the supply of digital content in business-to-consumer contracts. The proposal has a broad scope, covering data produced and supplied in digital form but also services allowing the creation, processing, storage and sharing of these data.

[Progress report](#)

■ European Electronic Communications Code

The EC launched a public consultation to prepare the review of the Significant Market Power (SMP) Guidelines, which defines the principles of the market-based analysis and assessment of SMP. The Commission wants to amend the guidelines in time for the implementation of the new European Electronic Communications Code. Contributions can be submitted until 26 June.

[EC dedicated page](#)

■ Money Laundering

The Council held a discussion on the progress report on the work at experts' level on the directive on countering money laundering and on the regulation on the mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders, which aims at simplifying the current framework by providing a single instrument with a broader scope of cross-border recognition rules. The EU institutions intend to review the 4th anti-money laundering directive in order to establish minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and sanctions. The Maltese Presidency expects the Council to reach its position in June, then negotiations with the EP can start.

[Progress report](#)

DECISIONS

EC Decision of 29 March – Amundi Immobilier / Malakoff Mederic / Tas Kapstadtring 2

■ Real estate

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over TAS Kapstadtring 2 GmbH by Amundi Immobilier S.A. and the group Malakoff Mederic.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 29 March – Lone Star Fund / Xella International

■ Manufacture of cement

The EC approved the acquisition of sole control over the Xella Group by Lone Star.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 29 March – SEGRO / PSPIB / SELP / Target Assets

■ Real estate activities

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over three logistic warehouses in Italy by SEGRO plc and Public Sector Pension Investment Board (PSPIB) of Canada, via their joint venture SEGRO European Logistics Partnership Sarl.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 29 March – Latvia short-term export-credit scheme

■ Regional development

The EC approved the Latvian short-term export-credit insurance scheme.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 29 March – Deutsche Börse / London Stock Exchange Group

■ Financial markets

The EC did not approve the proposed merger between Deutsche Börse AG and London Stock Exchange Group.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 27 March – Support to Danish Kriegers Flak offshore wind farm

■ Renewable energy

The EC approved Danish support for Kriegers Flak offshore wind farm.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 27 March – Standard / Braas Monier

■ Manufacture of construction products

The EC approved the acquisition of Braas Monier by Standard Industries.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 27 March – Engie Group / Soper / BPCE Group / LCS4 et LCS du Centre

■ Production and distribution of electricity

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control of La Compagnie du Soleil Investissement 4 (LCS4) and La Compagnie du Soleil Centre (LCS Centre) by the group Banque Populaire Caisse d'Epargne (Groupe BPCE).

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 27 March – DOW / DUPONT

■ Manufacture of chemicals, pesticides

The EC approved the proposed merger between Dow and DuPont, subject to the divestiture of major parts of DuPont's global pesticide business.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 24 March – Start-up aid for new routes from/to airports in the Region of Calabria

■ Passenger air transport

The EC approved the Italian aid scheme for new air routes to the region of Calabria.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 24 March – Amundi / Credit Agricole / Pioneer Investments

■ Financial service activities

The EC approved the acquisition of Pioneer by Amundi.

[Case information](#)

FROM THE OJEU

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

The non-opposition to the concentration OTTP / OGF Group – Case M.8398 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 101/05](#) – [Case information](#)

The non-opposition to the concentration SEB Internationale / WMF Group – Case M.8091 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 101/04](#) – [Case information](#)

The non-opposition to the concentration Bain Capital / Consolis – Case M.8367 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 101/03](#) – [Case information](#)

The non-opposition to the concentration Manabol Bitumen / H&R Refining / JV – Case M.8329 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 101/02](#) – [Case information](#)

The non-opposition to the concentration Thyssenkrupp Technologies / Thyssenkrupp / Atlas Elektronik – Case M.8393 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 101/01](#) – [Case information](#)

The non-opposition to the concentration Mitsubishi Chemical Group / PTT Public Company Group / JV – Case M.8342 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 98/02](#) – [Case information](#)

The non-opposition to the concentration Europa Capital / Rezdor / PHD Polska – Case M.8373 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 98/01](#) – [Case information](#)

The non-opposition to the concentration Smiths Group / Morpho Detection – Case M.8087 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 96/03](#) – [Case information](#)

The non-opposition to the concentration SPIE / SAG – Case M.8377 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 96/02](#) – [Case information](#)

The non-opposition to the concentration Bridgepoint / Zenith – Case M.8395 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 96/01](#) – [Case information](#)

The non-opposition to the concentration AMC / Nordic Cinema Group – Case M.8383 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 94/01](#) – [Case information](#)

■ **Prior notification of concentrations**

Prior notification of the concentration KKR / Travelopia – Case M.8417 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 101/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Lonza Group / Capsugel – Case M.8362 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 96/07](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Investindustrial / Black Diamond / Polynt / Reichhold – Case M.8059 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 96/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Groupe Credit Mutuel / BNP Paribas / JV – Case M.8389 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 94/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Engie / Omnes Capital / Predica / Engie PV Besse / Engie PV Sanguinet – Case M.8413 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 94/08](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration CVC / Zabka Polska – Case M.8428 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 94/07](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Ardian / Groupe Prosol – Case M.8442 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 94/06](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Bolloré Energy / Total Marketing France / DRPC – Case M.8438 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 94/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Broadcom / Brocade – Case M.8314 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 94/04](#) – [Case information](#)

BRUSSELS INTERN

■ **Encrypted Internet Communication**

The EC is expected to propose in June new measure on encrypted internet communication, in order to make it easier for law enforcement authorities to demand information from encrypted apps. Some EU Member States, such as France and Germany, recently asked the European Commission to study the feasibility of extending the requirements and obligations that telephone operators have to follow to internet operators.

■ **Wholesale Roaming Markets**

The EP is expected to vote on the proposal for a wholesale roaming regulation at its plenary session of the first week of April. At last trilogue meeting of the end of January, an agreement was reached to lower the wholesale data caps

originally proposed. As part of the agreement, the European Commission will conduct a review of the wholesale market by the end of 2019 and provide the EP and Council with an interim assessment by 15 December 2018. The regulation is a precondition for the so called “roam like at home”.

■ **EU Energy Update**

The EU Commissioner for Energy is confident that an agreement on the EU ETS reform can be reached before the end of the Maltese Presidency in June.

The Presidency of the Council has given priority to the proposals to revise the Energy Efficiency Directive so that a general approach can be reached before the end of the Presidency on 30 June.

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