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Main Topics

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

LAW

■ Consumers Rights

The EC presented the so-called “New Deal for Consumers”, which aims to increase consumer protection and to ensure better enforcement. The package is composed of a communication which sets out the action plan and two proposals for Directives:

- a proposal to amend Council Directive on unfair terms in consumer contracts, Directive on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of products offered to consumers, Directive concerning unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices and Directive on consumer rights;

- a proposal on representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers, repealing Directive 2009/22/EC.

Some of the issues addressed in the proposals are new consumer rights for free digital services and more information and transparency on online search; introduction of a European collective redress right; update of the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive, in order to tackle dual

quality of consumer products and increase of the fines up to 4% of annual turnover, with the possibility for national regulators to impose higher fines.

The proposals will now be discussed by the Council and the European Parliament. Together with the proposals the Commission also published a study on transparency in online platforms.

[EC proposal Directive on better enforcement and modernisation of EU consumer protection rules – EC proposal Directive on representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers – Annexes to the proposal – EC Communication – Study](#)

■ Food Safety

The EC proposed a revision of the General Food Law Regulation, focusing on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment, and of eight pieces of sectoral legislation in the area of GMOs, feed additives, smoke flavourings, food contact materials, food additives, food enzymes and flavourings, plant protection products and nov-

el foods. The proposal will now be submitted to the Council and the European Parliament for adoption.

[EC proposal for a Regulation on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain](#)

■ Food Supply Chain

The EC published its proposal to ban some of the most common unfair trading practices in the food supply chain. These include late payments for perishable food products, last minute order cancellations and unilateral or retroactive changes to contracts. Other practices will be permitted if subject to a clear upfront agreement between the parties. The proposal will now be submitted to the Council and the European Parliament for adoption.

[EC proposal for a Directive on unfair trading practices in business-to-business relationships in the food supply chain](#)

■ e-Commerce

The Council adopted new rules on cross-border parcel delivery services. The regulation will now be signed by the co-legislators, the Council and the European Parliament, and published in the Official Journal of the EU. It will enter into force 20 days after publication.

[Regulation on cross-border parcel delivery services](#)

■ 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

■ Financial Markets

The Joint Committee of the European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs) released the latest report on risks and vulnerabilities of the banking, insurance and securities sectors in the EU.

[EU Financial System Report](#)

DECISIONS

EC Decision of 12 April – Sedgwick / Cunningham Lindsey

■ Activities auxiliary to insurance and pension funding

The EC approved the acquisition of sole control over Cunningham Lindsey by Sedgwick.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 06 April – Cerberus Capital Management / BBVA (Real Estate Business)

■ Real estate activities

The EC approved the acquisition of real estate business of BBVA by Cerberus Capital Management.

[Case information](#)

FROM THE OJEU

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Strategic Value Partners / Vita Group – Case M.8830 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 132/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Prime Credit 3 / Oxalis Holding / Lennon / Tavani / Lo Giudice / Phoenix Asset Management – Case M.8809 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 130/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration GIP / NTV – Case M.8839 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 128/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Macquarie Group / TDC – Case M.8843 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 125/01](#) – [Case information](#)

■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration Geely / Saxo Bank – Case M.8735 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 130/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Liberty Global / Ziggo – Case M.7000 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 125/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Black Diamond Capital Management / GST AutoLeather – Case M.8846 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 125/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Mitsui Rail Capital Europe / Siemens Nederland / JV – Case M.8824 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 122/06](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Panalpina / DFG / PA NL Perishables – Case M.8805 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 122/05](#) – [Case information](#)

BRUSSELS INTERN

■ Copyright in the Digital Single Market

Member States' representatives will discuss the proposal for a Directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market at the meeting of the Council Working Party of 16 April. The debate will focus in particular on the remaining outstanding issues, such as articles 3a (optional exception for text and data mining), 11 (publishers right) and 13 (value gap) of the proposal. The Presidency aims to obtain a mandate for inter-institutional negotiations with the Parliament by the end of the month.

[Presidency paper](#)

■ European Competition Authorities

Inter-institutional negotiations between representatives of the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on the proposal to make national competition authorities more effective enforcers is expected to start on 17 April.

■ Circular Economy Package

On 18 April the European Parliament shall adopt the Circular Economy package, which is composed of a proposal for a Directive on packaging and packaging waste; a proposal for a Directive on end-of-life vehicles, on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators, and on

waste electrical and electronic equipment; a proposal for a Directive on waste and a proposal for a Directive on the landfill of waste. New targets for reuse and recycling should be applied from 2025.

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