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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

■ General Block Exemption Regulation

The EC adopted a new General Block Exemption Regulation. The regulation will enter into force 20 days after its publication in the Official Journal of the EU. The new GBER is the latest initiative that the European executive has taken to modernise State aid enforcement. For the first time, the new rules will exempt support measures for ports and airports; in addition to that, the regulation will give EU countries more flexibility to support culture, multi-purpose sports arenas and businesses in the outermost regions of the Union. The intention of the Commission is to boost public investments.

[Commission Regulation amending Regulation 651/2014 – Explanatory note – EC dedicated page](#)

■ Cross Border Portability of Online Content

The European Parliament approved new rules for cross border portability of online content. The regulation will allow users to access online content services they have paid

for in any other EU Country for a limited period of time. The European lawmakers call for safeguarding measures to be included in the text in order to ensure the respect of data and privacy of users during the verification process of the location by content providers. The draft law will have to be formally approved by the Council.

[EP legislative resolution](#)

■ Online Platforms

The Committees on the Internal Market and on Industry of the European Parliament adopted their joint non-legislative report on online platforms, where they stress the need for net neutrality and fair and non-discriminatory access to online platforms; they also call on the platforms to ensure the proper protection of personal data. The vote in plenary is expected for June. The final text will be available soon.

[Draft report on online platforms and the digital single market](#)

■ Capital Markets Union

The Council adopted the Regulation on the prospectuses for the issuing and offering of securities. The new rules will replace Directive 2003/71/EC. The European Parliament approved the text last April. Most provisions will apply 24 months after the entry into force of the legal text.

[Regulation on the prospectus to be published when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading on a regulated market, and repealing Directive 2003/71/EC](#)

■ Money Market Fund

The Council adopted new rules and common standards on the short-term financing market. In particular, the regulation aims to ensure stability in the structure of money market funds; to increase the liquidity and to guarantee that they can face sudden redemption requests. The legislator, the European Parliament, approved the text on 5 April. Most provisions will apply 12 months after entry into force.

[Regulation on Money Market Funds](#)

■ Money Laundering

The EP in plenary session rejected the list of states at risk of money laundering. Already earlier this year, the European lawmakers voted against a similar list drawn by the EC. For the MEPs, the EU should have an independent, autonomous process for judging whether countries pose a threat of financial criminality. The text will be available soon.

■ 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

■ Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society

The candidate proposed by the Bulgarian Government as Commissioner is Mariya Gabriel, who will replace former member Kristalina Georgieva. She will become Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society. An exchange of views between the candidate and the relevant Committee of the European Parliament is scheduled for the coming weeks. The new Commissioner will then be appointed by the Council.

■ Electronic Communications Code

The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications published a series of technical papers with the aim to provide the European legislators with some concrete proposals for amendments in some specific issues, such as on non-competitive oligopolies, market analysis, symmetric regulation, vertically separate undertakings and spectrum, among others.

[BEREC dedicated page](#)

■ Insurance Sector

The European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority published its updated Risk Dashboard based on the fourth-quarter 2016 data.

[EIOPA dedicated page](#)

■ Credit Risk Management

The European Banking Authority published its final Guidelines on credit institutions' credit risk management practices and accounting for expected credit losses.

[EBA Guidelines](#)

■ Electricity Distribution System Operator

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators and the Council of European Energy Regulators published their White Paper on the role of the electricity Distribution System Operator (DSO).

[White Paper "The role of the DSO"](#)

DECISIONS

EC Decision of 19 May – TPG / Oaktree / Iona Energy

■ Extraction of crude petroleum

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control by TPG and Oaktree Capital Group Holdings GP over Iona Energy Company Limited.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 19 May – OMERS / AIMCO / VUE / Dalian Wanda Group / UCI Italia / JV

■ Advertising

The EC approved the creation of a joint venture by UCI Italia and The Space Cinema 1 (“TSC”).

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 19 May – Westrock / MPS

■ Manufacture of paper and articles of paper

The EC approved the acquisition of sole control by WestRock Company over Multi Packaging Solutions International Limited (“MPS”).

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 18 May – Facebook / WhatsApp

■ Telecommunications activities

The EC fined Facebook for providing incorrect or misleading information about WhatsApp takeover.

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

EC Decision of 16 May – Zen-Noh / LDC / Amaggi / JV

■ Wholesale of grain, unmanufactured tobacco, seeds and animal feeds

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over Amaggi & LDC Holding S.A. by Zen-Noh, Louis Dreyfus Company B.V. and the Amaggi group.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 16 May – 5th Prolongation of the Credit Union restructuring and stabilisation Scheme

■ Banking

The EC approved the prolongation until 31 October 2017 of the Irish scheme aimed at restructuring credit unions.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 12 May – Ennoconn / S&T

■ Computer programming; manufacture of computer

The EC approved the acquisition of S&T by Ennoconn.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 12 May – ARES / Baupost / Nova Eventis

■ Buying, selling and renting of real estate

The EC approved the acquisition of the Nova Eventis shopping mall in Leipzig by Ares Management L.P and the Baupost Group L.L.C.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 12 May – Investindustrial / Black Diamond / Polynt / Reichhold

■ Manufacture of chemicals

The EC approved the merger between Reichhold and Polynt, subject to conditions.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 12 May – Broadcom / Brocade

■ Manufacture of communication equipment

The EC approved the acquisition of Brocade by Broadcom, subject to conditions.

[Case information](#)

EC Open of Investigation of 12 May – Aspen Pharma

■ Production of medicines

The EC opened a formal investigation into Aspen Pharma’s pricing practices for several anti-cancer medicines.

[Case information 40394](#)

EC Decision of 12 May – Extension of hydro-power concessions in Portugal

■ Production of electricity

The EC approved the extension of hydro power concessions granted by Portugal to the national incumbent Electricidade de Portugal SA.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 12 May – Tender for additional capacity in Brittany

■ Production of electricity

The EC approved the French aid to Compagnie Electrique de Bretagne for the construction of a gas-fired power plant in Brittany, subject to conditions.

[Case information](#)

FROM THE OJEU

■ Conflict minerals

Regulation (EU) 2017/821 of the EP and of the Council of 17 May 2017 laying down supply chain due diligence obligations for Union importers of tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold originating from conflict-affected and high-risk areas has been published.

[Regulation 2017/821](#)

■ State aid

Invitation to submit comments pursuant to Article 108(2) TFEU on the case SA.45852 (2017/N) – Capacity Reserve has been published.

[Document 2017/C 159/03](#)

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration AXA / Caisse des depots et consignations / Cible (II) – Case M.8387 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 157/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Lanxess / Chemtura – Case M.8261 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 157/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Carlyle / CITIC / McDonald's / McDonald's China – Case M.8384 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 157/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration KKR / Telefonica / Telxius – Case M.8427 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 154/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration ELO / AP1/ Real Estate Portfolio in Finland – Case M.8446 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 154/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Peter Cremer Holding / Hage / König Transportgesellschaft – Case M.8418 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 154/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration CPPIB / PSPIB / Waiheke – Case M.8463 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 154/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Toyota Industries Europe / Vive – Case M.8391 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 152/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration STRABAG / Rohöl-Aufsuchungs AG / JV – Case M.8455 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 152/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration KKR / CDPQ / USI Insurance Services – Case M.8462 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 150/01](#) – [Case information](#)

■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration Imerys / Kerneos – Case M.8360 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 157/12](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Goldman Sachs / Eurazeo / Dominion Web Solutions – Case M.8503 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 157/11](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Ardian France / LaSalle Investment Management / Europa – Case M.8494 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 157/10](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration GE / ATI / JV – Case M.8301 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 155/06](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration RHI / Magnesia Refratarios – Case M.8286 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 150/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration LGP / OMERS / OPE Caliber Holdings – Case M.8477 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 150/04](#) – [Case information](#)

■ Reform of the Copyright Regime

The Council is expected to adopt its first reading agreement on the proposal for a Regulation on ensuring the cross-border portability of online content services in the internal market at the meeting of 9 June. While, with regard to the Directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market, the Maltese Presidency is preparing the first Presidency compromise text for discussions in Council Working Party.

■ Audiovisual Media Services

The general approach on the proposal for a new directive on the Audio-visual Media Services should be reached at Council meeting of 23 May. Afterwards, trilogue negotiations can start, since the European Parliament already has its negotiating mandate. The new directive will include online platforms.

■ E-Privacy

A progress report on the new rules on e-Privacy is expected to be adopted on 9 June. The first compromise text will be presented by the Presidency of the Council before the end of its semester; while the European Parliament scheduled the vote in the committee for November.

According to the report, Member States are divided over the proposal to extend the scope of the current rules to new internet-based services such as Voice over IP, instant messaging and web-based email services. Other sensitive issues are the confidentiality of electronic communications data and the protection of the information stored in.

[Progress Report](#)

■ Brexit

The Council will authorise the opening of Brexit negotiations, nominate the Commission as negotiator and adopt the negotiating directive during its meeting on 22 May.

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