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- Bank/Insurance/Tax
- Enviroment
- Media/Telecom
- Competition/SA
- Healthcare
- Aviation/Transport
- Foreign Trade
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LAW

■ Annual Report on Competition Policy – Special Focus on Google

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the EP adopted the Annual Report on Competition Policy. The document contains a series of non-binding recommendations for the European Commission, such as the call for the adoption of guidelines to limit the duration of antitrust investigations or the need to open up competition in the transport sector. Special attention is given to the tech giant Google; in particular, the Committee calls on the European executive to ensure that Google implements the Commission's decision effectively, through a structural separation of its search engine from specialised services; it also invites the Commission to intervene in the other sectors, such as travel and local search. With regard to the Android investigation, parliamentarians wish for the Commission to be able to conclude the investigation by this Spring. The report now needs to be approved by the full assembly; the vote in plenary is scheduled for April 16. The adopted report will be available soon.

[Draft report on the Annual Report on Competition Policy](#)

■ Contracts for Online and Other Distance Sales of Goods

The Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee of the EP approved a report on the proposal for a Directive on certain aspects concerning contracts for the online and other distance sales of goods. The new rules aim to harmonise certain contractual rights, such as the remedies available to consumers. Together with the proposal for a Directive on the supply of digital content, this law is intended to replace the existing Consumer Sales Directive with regard to distance sales both online and offline. The Committee also approved the mandate to start inter-institutional negotiations; the Parliament and the Council will enter into negotiations on the final text as soon as the latter has agreed on its position. The adopted text will be available soon.

[Draft report](#)

■ Intellectual Property

The Council adopted a decision authorising the conclusion of the Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled. The decision enables the EU to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty as from next summer.

[Council decision](#)

■ Connected Vehicles

The Transport and Tourism Committee of the EP voted on the draft report for a European Strategy on Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems. Parliamentarians basically ask the European Commission to come out with an initiative on access to data by the end of the year. The debate and vote in plenary is scheduled for April 12. The adopted report will be available soon.

[Draft report](#)

■ Brexit

The EC published a series of documents on the negotiations with the UK. Among them there are slides used for internal preparatory discussions on regulatory issues, mobility and transport.

[EC dedicated page](#)

■ Insurance Distribution

The Permanent Representatives Committee confirmed on behalf of the Council an agreement to postpone the transposition deadline to 1 July 2018 and the application date to 1 October 2018 of new rules on insurance distribution.

[Directive 2016/97 on Insurance Distribution – Proposal amending Directive as regards the date of application of Member States' transposition measures](#)

■ Company Law – International Accounting Standards

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a regulation amending Regulation 1126/2008 adopting international accounting standards, in accordance with regulation 1606/2002, as regards International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 9.

[Commission Regulation – Annex](#)

■ Waste Management and Recycling

The Permanent Representatives Committee endorsed the provisional agreement on the four legislative proposals of the waste package which was reached last December by the Estonian Presidency and representatives of the European Parliament. The package will amend the Waste framework Directive; Packaging waste Directive; Landfill Directive; Directives on electrical and electronic waste, on end-of-life vehicles and on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators. The revised legislation will now be submitted to the EP for a vote and then to the Council for final adoption. It will enter into force 20 days after its publication in the Official Journal of the EU. The texts of the proposals will be available soon.

■ Environmental risk assessment of GMOs

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission directive amending Directive 2001/18/EC as regards the environmental risk assessment of genetically modified organisms. This directive incorporates new guidance issued by the European Food Safety Authority. The Commission directive can be adopted unless the EP objects.

[Commission Directive – Annex](#)

■ 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

■ Significant Market Power

The EC published the drafts of the revised SMP Guidelines and its accompanying Explanatory Note. The adoption of the revised guidelines and note is scheduled for the end of April, after the opinion of the Body of Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC).

[EC dedicated page](#)

■ eCommerce

The EC published the results of the first coordinated official controls of Internet marketed foods carried out by 25 Member States, Switzerland and Norway.

[Analysis of the main outcome – EC dedicated page](#)

■ Virtual Currencies

The European Supervisory Authorities for Securities (ESMA), Banking (EBA) and Insurance and Pensions (EIOPA) released a joint statement warning consumers on the risks of buying virtual currencies. The European Securities and Market Authority plans to scrutinise soon the virtual currency and the associated blockchain technology.

[ESAs warning](#)

■ Data Protection

The Article 29 Working Party launched a consultation on the Guidelines on Article 49 of Regulation 2016/679 on derogations in the context of transfers of personal data to third countries. Contributions can be submitted until 26 March.

[Consultation page](#)

■ Aviation Strategy

The European Aviation Safety Agency released a technical opinion on safe drone operations in Europe, which will serve as a basis for the European Commission to adopt regulatory proposals for safe and secure drone operations.

[EASA dedicated page](#)

■ REMIT

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators published updates on REMIT related matters in its REMIT Quarterly.

[ACER dedicated page](#)

■ Distribution System Operators

The Council of European Energy Regulators published a set of recommendations to regulators on Incentives Schemes for Regulating Distribution System Operators (DSOs).

[CEER conclusions paper](#)

DECISIONS

EC Decision of 21 February – KSS Holdings / Takata Corporation

■ Manufacture of other parts and accessories for motor vehicles

The EC approved the acquisition of Takata Corporation by KSS Holdings.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 21 February – Lübeck-Blankensee airport – Alleged State aid to Infratil and to the airport

■ Air transport

The EC found two agreements concluded in 2010 between the Lübeck airport operator and Ryanair to be in line with EU state aid rules.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 20 February – Maritime Car Carriers and Car Parts Suppliers

■ Sea and coastal freight water transport; Manufacture of electrical and electronic equipment

for motor vehicles; Manufacture of other parts and accessories for motor vehicles

The EC fined four maritime car carriers and car parts suppliers in three separate cartel settlements.

[Case information \(maritime car carriers\)](#) – [Case information \(spark plugs\)](#) – [Case information \(braking systems\)](#)

EC Decision of 19 February – TA Associates / OTPP / Flexera Holdings

■ Computer programming, consultancy and related activities

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over Flexera Holdings LP by TA Associates L.P. and Ontarios Teachers' Pension Plan Board ("OTPP").

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 19 February – Repsol / KIA / JV

■ Renting and leasing of cars and light motor vehicles

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over a newly created joint venture by Repsol and KIA.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 19 February – Endowment Strategies / Benvic Europe

■ Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products

The EC approved the acquisition of Actaeon by ReAssure.
[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 19 February – HASCO / MAGNA / JV

■ Manufacture of parts and accessories for motor vehicles

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over the newly created joint venture HASCO Magna Electric Drive

System Co. Ltd (“E-Drive”) by Huayu Automotive Systems Company Ltd. (“HASCO”) and Magna International Inc. (“Magna”).

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 19 February – Czech Post – State compensation of the USO net costs for 2013-2017 – PN

■ Postal activities under universal service obligation

The EC approved State support to Czech Post for the provision of the postal universal service obligation in the Czech Republic between 2013 and 2017.

[Case information](#)

FROM THE OJEU

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Dr. Oetker / Bake & Co – Case M.8748 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 67/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration 3M Company / Scott Safety – Case M.8486 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 67/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Kuehne + Nagel / Kuehne + Nagel Drinksflow Logistics – Case M.8540 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 67/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration PAI / BCIMC / Refresco – Case M.8755 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 67/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration HASCO / Magna / JV – Case M.8753 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 65/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Bell / Hügli – Case M.8751 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 65/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Bain Capital / Fedrigoni – Case M.8804 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 64/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Groupe Lactalis / Omira – Case M.8549 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 62/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Lufthansa / Certain Air Berlin assets – Case M.8633 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 60/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Nordic Capital / Alloheim – Case M.8757 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 60/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Euler Hermes / Mapfre / Solunion – Case M.8794 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 60/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration CVC / Teva’s Women’s Health Business – Case M.8675 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 60/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Votorantim / CPPIB / VTRM Energia Participacoes / Ventos do Araripe III – Case M.8777 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 60/01](#) – [Case information](#)

■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration ELG Haniel / Iberinox / JV – Case M.8606 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 69/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Swiss Life / Credit Agricole / CNP Assurances / Pisto – Case M.8812 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 67/17](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Axion / Enagas / Axent – Case M.8793 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 65/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Goldman Sachs / Centerbridge / Roby – Case M.8816 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 65/08](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration ArcelorMittal / CLN / CSM – Case M.8762 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 64/10](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Apollo Management / CBR – Case M.8827 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 64/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Brookfield / Westinghouse – Case M.8818 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 64/08](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration CDPQ / Hyperion Insurance Group – Case M.8767 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 64/07](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration IFM / CDPQ / Conmex – Case M.8811 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 62/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Melrose / GKN – Case M.8814 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 62/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Crown / Signode – Case M.8796 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 60/15](#) – [Case information](#)

BRUSSELS INTERN

■ Copyright

The lead Committee of the European Parliament is expected to vote on its position on the proposal to modernise EU copyright rules on 27 March, paving the way for the discussion in plenary session.

■ Digital Taxation

The European Commission is expected to publish its proposal on digital taxation on 21 March.

■ ECN+

The Presidency of the Council stressed the importance of the ECN+ proposal and is working to finalise a common position among Member States by the end of its term in June.

■ Food Labelling

The European Commission aims to introduce country of origin food labelling. A public consultation on the Commission's draft is still on-going, however the European executive has made it clear that it intends to have mandatory labelling.

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