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## Main Topics

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

## LAW

### ■ Data Protection

The EC published Guidance on the direct application of the new data protection rules. The General Data Protection Regulation will be applicable on 25 May and it still requires some adjustment in certain aspects of national legislations. Member States will have to repeal and amend some existing laws before the end of May. In addition to the guidelines, the European Commission launched a new website containing practical examples and useful links.

[EC Guidance on the direct application of the GDPR – EC dedicated page](#)

### ■ Trade Defence Rules

The EP endorsed the political agreement reached with the Council last December on the modernisation of the EU's trade defence instruments, which introduces changes to the anti-dumping methodology and anti-subsidy regulations. Before the new rules can enter into force, the Council and the Parliament need to conclude their respective

approval procedures. The agreed text will be available soon.

[EC dedicated page](#)

### ■ Taxation

The Council removed eight countries (Barbados, Grenada, the Republic of Korea, Macao SAR, Mongolia, Panama, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates) from the EU's list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes, following their commitments to remedy EU concerns.

[Council decision](#)

### ■ European Long-term Investment Funds

The Council decided not to object to a Commission regulation supplementing Regulation 2015/760 on European long-term investment funds with regard to a set of regulatory technical standards. The regulation can enter into force, unless the EP objects.

[EC delegated Regulation](#)

### ■ Hazardous Chemicals

The Council decided not to object to a Commission regulation amending annexes I and V to Regulation 649/2012 on the export and import of hazardous chemicals. The regulation can enter into force, unless the EP objects.

[EC delegated Regulation – Annexes](#)

### ■ Greenhouse Gas Emission Allowance Trading

The Council decided not to oppose to the adoption by the Commission of a regulation amending Regulation 389/2013 establishing an EU registry for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading. The Commission may adopt the regulation unless the EP objects.

[EC regulation](#)

### ■ Collective Redress Measures

The EC published a report on the implementation of collective redress measures in Member States. This report will feed into the preparations of the Commission's initiative on the rights of consumers that is expected for this Spring. Together with the report, the Commission also published a study on national procedural laws and their impacts on the protection of consumers.

[EC dedicated page](#)

### ■ 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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### ■ EU-Mercosur Trade Agreement

The EC published a report on latest progress in the negotiations for the EU-Mercosur trade agreement.

[Report](#)

### ■ Banking

The Joint Committee of the three European Supervisory Authorities (EBA, EIOPA and ESMA) published an Opinion on the use of innovative solutions by credit and financial institutions when complying with their customer due diligence obligations.

[ESAs Opinion](#)

### ■ Insurance Sector

The European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority published its Risk Dashboard based on the third-quarter of 2017. The results continue to show relative stable risk exposure of the insurance sector in the EU.

[EIOPA Risk Dashboard](#)

## DECISIONS

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### EC Decision of 25 January – Verdane / Vitruvian / EasyPark

#### ■ Information technology and computer service activities

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control by Verdane and Vitruvian over EasyPark.

[Case information](#)

### EC Decision of 24 January – EG Group / ESSO Germany Business

#### ■ Retail sale of automotive fuel in specialised stores

The EC approved the proposed acquisition of sole control over ESSO Germany Business by EG Group.

[Case information](#)

### EC Decision of 24 January – SHV Holdings / Liquigas

#### ■ Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles

The EC approved the acquisition of Liquigas by SHV Holding.

## [Case information](#)

### **EC Decision of 24 January – Qualcomm (exclusivity payments)**

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#### ■ **Manufacture of communication equipment and of consumer electronics**

The EC fined Qualcomm for abuse of dominant market position in LTE baseband chipsets.

#### [Case information](#)

### **EC Decision of 22 January – Restructuring of the Polish Regional Railways**

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#### ■ **Passenger rail transport**

The EC opened in-depth investigation into restructuring aid for Polish Regional Railways.

#### [Case information](#)

### **EC Decision of 19 January – CD&R / D’Ieteren / Belron**

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#### ■ **Maintenance and repair of motor vehicles; Insurance**

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over Belron Group S.A. by Clayton, Dubilier & Rice (“CD&R”) and SA D’Ieteren NV.

#### [Case information](#)

### **EC Decision of 19 January – Mitsui / GSC / Caetanoabus**

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#### ■ **Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailer and semi-trailers**

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control over Fabricacao de Carrocarias S.A. by Grupo Salvador Caetano SGPS S.A and Mitsui & Co. Ltd.

#### [Case information](#)

### **EC Decision of 19 January – Amtrust / Madison Dearborn Partners / Mayfield Holdings JV**

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#### ■ **Activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities**

The EC approved the acquisition of joint control by Amtrust Financial Services Inc. and Madison Dearborn Partners LLC over the joint venture Mayfield Holdings LLC.

#### [Case information](#)

## **FROM THE OJEU**

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#### ■ **Non-opposition to concentrations**

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Bunge / IOI / Loders – Case M.8686 has been published.

#### [Document 2018/C 29/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration AmTrust / Madison Dearborn Partners / Mayfield Holdings JV – Case M.8737 has been published.

#### [Document 2018/C 29/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration easyJet / Certain Air Berlin assets – Case M.8672 has been published.

#### [Document 2018/C 27/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Prisko / OKD Nastupnicka – Case M.8687 has been published.

#### [Document 2018/C 23/01](#) – [Case information](#)

#### ■ **Prior notification of concentrations**

Prior notification of the concentration EPH / Matrai Eromu – Case M.8760 has been published.

#### [Document 2018/C 29/07](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Euler Hermes / Mapfre / Solunion – Case M.8794 has been published.

#### [Document 2018/C 29/06](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Northrop Grumman / Orbital ATK – Case M.8688 has been published.

#### [Document 2018/C 27/11](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Macquarie / Allianz / Lakeside Network Investments – Case M.8776 has been published.

#### [Document 2018/C 24/06](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Bell / Hügli – Case M.8751 has been published.

#### [Document 2018/C 24/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Goldman Sachs / Riverstone Investment / Lucid Energy Group II – Case M.8800 has been published.

#### [Document 2018/C 24/04](#) – [Case information](#)

### ■ e-Privacy Regulation

The Council Working Group on Telecommunications is still discussing on some critical issues of the proposed Regulation on Privacy and Electronic Communications. The European Parliament and the Council will enter into inter-institutional negotiations on the final text as soon as the latter has agreed on its position.

[Presidency discussion paper](#)

### ■ Foreign Investment

The International Trade Committee of the European Parliament will present its first report on the proposal for a regulation establishing a framework for screening of foreign direct investments into the EU by the end of February. A vote is scheduled to be held in May.

### ■ EU Merger Review

The Directorate General for Competition of the European Commission announced that in the coming months there will be available a set of best practice guidelines on how to submit internal documents in merger cases.

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