



## Content

LAW	1
POLITICS/GENERAL	2
DECISIONS	3
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

### ■ Geo-blocking

The Committee on Internal Market of the European Parliament voted on the report on the Regulation on geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or establishment and endorsed the mandate to open inter-institutional negotiations with the Council to agree on a final text. The Parliament's report strengthens the Commission's proposal of last year; however, sectors such as audio-visual services, financial, transport, electronic communication or healthcare services are excluded from the scope of the draft regulation. Anyway, the EC must assess within three years of the entry into force of the Regulation whether they should be covered in the future. The Council adopted its negotiating mandate last November. The report will now be debated and voted in plenary, so trilogue can start next month. This is part of the Commission's Ecommerce package and one of the key measures for the realisation of the digital single market. The final text will be available soon.

### [Draft report](#)

### ■ Roaming

The Council adopted the reform of the EU wholesale prices, which constitutes the legal prerequisite for abolishing roaming fees. The European Parliament already approved the regulation on 6 April, this is therefore the last step before the text is signed by both co-legislators (the Council and the EP) in mid-May and published in the EU Official Journal by the end of May. It will enter into force three days after its publication, in time for the 15 June deadline.

[Regulation amending Regulation 531/2012 as regards rules for wholesale roaming markets](#)

### ■ Audiovisual Media Services Directive

The Committee on Culture and Education of the European Parliament voted on its report regarding the review of the Directive on the provision of audio-visual media services. The EP as a whole will decide on 15 May whether to open

trilogue negotiations with the other EU institutions for the final approval of the legislation. While the other co-legislator, the Council, expects to adopt its negotiating mandate on 23 May. The final text will be available soon.

[Draft text](#)

#### ■ Mobile Connectivity

The Council adopted a decision which will improve mobile connectivity by opening the 700 MHz frequency band for mobile broadband. The decision will be signed by the Council and the EP in mid-May and published in the Official Journal on 30 May. It will then enter into force 20 days after its publication. EU Member States will have to set out an implementation plan for the reassignment of the band by the end of June 2018.

[Decision on the use of the 470-790 MHz frequency band in the Union](#)

#### ■ EU Finances

The Council adopted a Directive on the protection of the financial interests of the Union, so called PIF Directive. The new rules will improve the prosecution and sanctioning of crimes against the European finances and facilitate the recovery of misused funds. Once approved by the European Parliament, the directive will be published in the Official Journal of the EU and Member States will have twenty-four months to implement it.

[Directive on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law](#)

#### ■ Multinationals Tax Loopholes

The European Parliament adopted some amendments to the Anti-tax Avoidance Directive, in order to prevent multinationals established in two jurisdictions to deduct the same expenditure from tax in both jurisdictions. The report now goes to the Council for the final approval. The text will be available soon.

#### ■ Gas Supply

Negotiators of the Council and the European Parliament reached an agreement on the proposal for a revised regulation concerning measures to safeguard the security of gas supply. Following the political agreement, the legislative act will have to be formally approved by both co-legislators. Only after that, the revised Security of Gas Supply Regulation will be published in the Official Journal of the EU and will enter into force 20 days after publication. The new rules will enhance regional cooperation and coordination among Member States on the basis of a solidarity mechanism. 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

---

#### ■ EU-Japan Cooperation Agreement

The Council authorised the European Commission to start negotiations with Japan on a cooperation agreement in the area of competition policy. The aim is to strengthen the existing agreement of 2003 on anti-competitive activities.

#### ■ REMIT

The Agency for the cooperation of Energy Regulators published the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Frequently Asked Questions on REMIT Transaction Reporting.

[ACER dedicated page](#)

#### ■ Solvency II

The European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority proposed amendments to the adopted Solvency II technical standards on reporting and disclosure. The Authority welcomes comments regarding the impact assessment of the proposed amendments by 8 May.

[EIOPA dedicated page](#)

## DECISIONS

---

### EC Decision of 27 April – BMW / Daimler / Ford / Porsche / JV

---

#### ■ Construction of utility projects for electricity and telecommunications

The EC approved the creation of a joint venture by BMW, Daimler, Porsche and Ford.

[Case information](#)

### EC Decision of 25 April – Emil Frey France / PGA

---

#### ■ Sale and maintenance of motor vehicles

The EC approved the acquisition of PGA by Emil Frey.

[Case information](#)

### EC Decision of 24 April – Bolloré / Vivendi

---

#### ■ Broadcasting activities; advertising

The EC approved the acquisition of Vivendi by Bolloré.

[Case information](#)

### EC Decision of 21 April – Lonza Group / Capsugel

---

#### ■ Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and preparations

The EC approved the acquisition of Capsugel by Lonza.

[Case information](#)

### EC Decision of 21 April – KKR / Travelopia

---

#### ■ Tour operator and related activities

The EC approved the acquisition of Travelopia Holdings Limited and Travelopia USA Inc. by KKR & Co. L.P.

[Case information](#)

### EC Decision of 21 April – Panasonic Corporation / Ficosa International

---

#### ■ Sale of motor vehicle parts and accessories

The EC approved the acquisition of Ficosa International by Panasonic.

[Case information](#)

### EC Decision of 21 April – Subsidised Energy Tax and RES support in Latvia

---

#### ■ Production of electricity

The EC approved the support granted to renewable energy and cogeneration power plants built in Latvia between 2007 and 2012.

[Case information](#)

## FROM THE OJEU

---

### ■ REACH

Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/735 of 14 February 2017 amending, for the purpose of its adaptation to technical progress, the Annex to Regulation 440/2008 laying down test methods pursuant to Regulation 1907/2006 on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals has been published.

[Commission Regulation 2017/735](#)

#### ■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration SGAB / Acciona / SCCN – Case M.8424 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 134/06](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration EDF / CDC / Mitsubishi Corporation / NGM – Case M.8447 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 134/05](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Safran Group / China Eastern Air Holding – Case M.8411 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 133/08](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration GE / Baker Hughes – Case M.8297 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 133/07](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration EDF / Areva reactor business – Case M.7764 has been published.

[Document 2017/C 130/02](#) – [Case information](#)

## BRUSSELS INTERN

### ■ Brexit

After the adoption of the guidelines by the European Council on 29 April, the Council is expected to adopt a decision authorising the opening of negotiations on 22 May.

### ■ Copyright

A summary of the feedback received by the European Commission on the copyright modernisation package has been released.

[Document](#)

### For suggestions, comments please contact:

Noerr LLP  
Boulevard du Régent 47-48  
1000 Brüssel  
Belgien

### Head of Regulatory & Governmental Affairs



Dr. Holger Schmitz  
T +49 30 2094 2160  
[holger.schmitz@noerr.com](mailto:holger.schmitz@noerr.com)

### Head of Antitrust & Competition Law



Dr. Alexander Birnstiel  
T +49 89 28628 241  
[alexander.birnstiel@noerr.com](mailto:alexander.birnstiel@noerr.com)

### Regulatory Affairs Advisor



Giovanna Ventura  
T +32 2 2745573  
[giovanna.ventura@noerr.com](mailto:giovanna.ventura@noerr.com)

The information in this newsletter does not replace advice in any particular case.

© Noerr LLP 2017  
[www.noerr.com](http://www.noerr.com)