



Content

LAW	1
POLITICS/GENERAL	2
DECISIONS	2
FROM THE OJEU	3
BRUSSELS INTERN	3

Main Topics

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

LAW

■ **Energy Efficient Buildings**

The Permanent Representatives Committee of the Council confirmed the political agreement reached between the Estonian presidency, on behalf of the Council, and the EP last December on the revised directive on the energy performance of buildings, which amends Directive 2010/31/EU and it complements EU legislation on energy efficiency of products. After formal approval by the Council and the EP, the directive will be published in the Official Journal of the EU, and it will enter into force twenty days later. The transposition period is 20 months. The agreed text will be available soon.

[Council general approach](#)

■ **Sustainable Finance**

The High-level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance published its final report which sets out strategic recommendations for a financial system that supports sustainable investments. The Group proposes a sustainability taxonomy

at EU level, a definition of priority investment areas, clarifications of investors’ duties and the development of official European sustainability standards for green bonds. These recommendations will feed into the EC’s strategy on sustainable finance that is expected to be released in the coming months.

[Final Report – Annex I – Annex II](#)

■ **Tobacco Products**

The Council decided not to object to a Commission regulation on elements of data storage contracts concluded as part of a traceability system for tobacco products.

[Commission delegated regulation](#)

■ **Drinking Water**

The EC presented revised legislation to improve the quality of drinking water and its access. Key elements of the proposal are the update of the list of standards in order to be in line with the latest scientific knowledge, the introduc-

tion of a risk-based water safety assessment in the entire EU; obligation to improve access to water; better information about the quality and supply of drinking water.

[EC proposal for a Directive on the quality of water](#)

■ Brexit

The EC received mandate to begin negotiations with the UK on possible transitional arrangements following the withdrawal from the EU. The draft text of the Withdrawal Agreement will be published soon.

POLITICS/GENERAL

■ Insurance Distribution Directive

The European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority launched a consultation on the proposal for Regulatory Technical Standards adapting the base euro amounts for professional indemnity insurance and for financial capacity of intermediaries under the Insurance Distribution Directive. Contributions can be submitted until 27 April.

[EIOPA dedicated page](#)

■ Industrial Strategy

EU Ministers met informally in Bulgaria to discuss the major challenges for the European industry. Further meetings at political and expert levels will follow with the aim to develop a comprehensive and long-term EU industrial strategy. Digitalisation, value added chains, competition on the

■ 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](#)

global markets, the role of core and energy-intensive industries are some of the most critical topics.

■ Blockchain Observatory

The EC launched the EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum to highlight key developments of the blockchain technology and promote European actors.

■ European Energy Regulators

The Council of European Energy Regulators published its work programme for 2018.

[CEER Work Programme](#)

DECISIONS

EC Decision of 30 January – Owens Corning / Paroc

■ Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products n.e.c.

The EC approved the acquisition of Paroc Group Oyj by Owens Corning.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 29 January – CVC / TMF

■ Business support service activities; management consultancy activities

The EC approved the acquisition of TMF Orange Holding B.V. ("TMF") by CVC Capital Partners SICAV-FIS S.A.

[Case information](#)

EC Decision of 29 January – Baywa / Clean Energy Trading

■ Electric power generation, transmission and distribution

The EC approved the acquisition of Clean Energy Trading GmbH by BayWa r.e.

[Case information](#)

FROM THE OJEU

■ Non-opposition to concentrations

Non-opposition to the notified concentration CVC / TMF – Case M.8715 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 39/01](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration Mitsui / GSC / Caetano Bus – Case M.8734 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 37/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration EG Group / ESSO Germany Business – Case M.8746 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 37/02](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration CD&R / D'leteren / Belron – Case M.8745 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 34/04](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration SAICA / Emin Leydier – Case M.8692 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 34/03](#) – [Case information](#)

Non-opposition to the notified concentration RAG Stiftung / Evonik Industries / Huber Silica – Case M.8348 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 34/02](#) – [Case information](#)

■ Prior notification of concentrations

Prior notification of the concentration TA Associates / OTPP / Flexera Holdings – Case M.8798 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 39/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration ReAssure / Actaeon – Case M.8761 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 37/10](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration HASCO / Magna / JV – Case M.8753 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 37/09](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Repsol / Kia / JV – Case M.8783 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 34/14](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Shell / Impello – Case M.8775 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 34/13](#) – [Case information](#)

Prior notification of the concentration Bain Capital / Fedrigoni – Case M.8804 has been published.

[Document 2018/C 34/12](#) – [Case information](#)

BRUSSELS INTERN

■ IPR Enforcement Package

At the meeting of the Council Working Party on Intellectual Property of 5 February representatives of EU Member States will try to finalise a set of proposals, namely *Council Conclusions*, on the IPR enforcement package. The draft prepared by the Presidency of the Council sets out a series of proposals for Member States and the European Commission, focusing mainly on improving the application of the existing rules. Among other things, the paper underlines the need for a clear, balanced and reasonable policy on the standard essential patents. On that regard, Member States invite the Commission to offer complementary guidance to SEPs users in order to incentivise the development and inclusion of new technologies in standards and the dissemination of standardised technologies based on fair access conditions.

Once approved by the Working Party, the paper will be sent to the Council for endorsement.

[Draft Council Conclusions](#)

■ EU ETS Post-2020

The EP is expected to vote on the proposal for the EU emissions trading system for the 2021-2030 period in February. Last November the Committee on Environment approved the provisional agreement reached with the Council. Formal approval by both the Council and the European Parliament is needed.

■ Clean Mobility

The third mobility package is planned for May. The new package will focus on connected and automated driving. It will also contain a legislative proposal on CO2 emissions for heavy-duty vehicles.

■ Public Procurement

The Internal Market Committee of the European Parliament will prepare for the end of February or beginning of March at the latest its own-initiative report on the Public Procurement Strategy Package, which has been presented by the European Commission last October.

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