

Highlights

COMPETITION

- The Commission sent a Statement of Objections (SO) to a number of banks regarding the European government bonds cartel. [↗](#)

1. Competition and State Aid

Competition enforcement in the pharmaceutical sector (2009-2017)

The Commission published a report showing that active competition law enforcement, at EU and national level, in the pharmaceutical sector contributes to delivering more affordable medicines and more choice to patients and healthcare systems, and promotes further innovation.

([Commission Press Release IP/19/741](#), January 28, 2019; Commission [report](#), 2019; [Executive summary](#), 2019)

EU competition policy

European Parliament resolution of January 31, 2019, on the annual report.

([Resolution](#), January 31, 2019)

Training of national judges in EU competition law

The Commission published a call for proposals for the training of national judges in EU competition law.

([Commission page](#); [Call for proposals](#))

“The courage of hope in Europe”

Speech by Commissioner Vestager in Berlin on January 28, 2019.

([Speech](#), January 28, 2019)

Shaping competition policy in the era of digitization

Speech by Commissioner Vestager in Brussels on January 17, 2019.

([Speech](#), February 1, 2019)

1.1 Horizontal Agreements

European government bonds

The Commission sent a Statement of Objections (SO) to a number of banks outlining its preliminary view that they have breached EU antitrust rules by colluding, in periods from 2007 to 2012, to distort competition when acquiring and trading European Government Bonds (EGBs).

([Commission Press Release IP/19/804](#), January 31, 2019)



1.2 Mergers and Acquisitions

General Court

Liberty Global/Ziggo

Appeal against the Commission's decision of May 30, 2018, reapproving the acquisition of Ziggo by Liberty Global, subject to conditions.

(Case T-691/18 *KPN v. Commission*, [OJ 2019 C 35/25](#))

Notifications

IIF/Kuwait Investment Authority/North Sea Midstream Partners

Kuwait Investment Authority and IIF Int'l Holding intend to acquire joint control of North Sea Midstream Partners via a special purpose vehicle, Selkie Investments Midstream Topco.

(Case COMP/M.9266; [OJ 2019 C 36/39](#))

KKR/China Resources/Genesis Care

KKR and China Resources (Holdings) Company intend to acquire joint control of Genesis Care.

(Case COMP/M.9243; [OJ 2019 C 36/37](#))

Brookfield Asset Management/Johnson Controls Power Solutions Business

Brookfield Asset Management intends to acquire control of part of Johnson Controls International.

(Case COMP/M.9224; [OJ 2019 C 37/14](#))

ENGIE/BPCE/ENGIE PV Curbans

Engie and Mirova Eurofideme 4, belonging to the Banque Populaire Caisse d'Epargne Group (BPCE), intend to acquire joint control of ENGIE PV Curbans.

(Case COMP/M.9269; [OJ 2019 C 37/16](#))

Daikin Industries/Cool International Holding

Daikin Europe, controlled by Daikin Industries, intends to acquire control of Cool International Holding.

(Case COMP/M.9246; [OJ 2019 C 37/17](#))

ADM/Gleadell Agriculture

ADM Arkady intends to acquire control of Gleadell Agriculture, jointly controlled by ADM and Invivo Grains.

(Case COMP/M.9262; [OJ 2019 C 38/24](#))

RWE/E.ON Assets

RWE intends to acquire control of certain generation assets of E.ON.

(Case COMP/M.8871; [OJ 2019 C 38/22](#))

LetterOne/BASF/Wintershall DEA

LetterOne Holdings and BASF intend to acquire joint control of Wintershall DEA.

(Case COMP/M.8773; [OJ 2019 C 38/20](#))

Schwarz Gruppe/Nord-Westdeutsche Papierrohstoff/JV

GreenCycle Holding, belonging to the Schwarz group, and Nord-Westdeutsche Papierrohstoff, belonging to the WEIG group, intend to create a joint venture.

(Case COMP/M.9265; [OJ 2019 C 39/21](#))

BAC/Marriott/Airhotel BVBA

Brussels Airport Company (BAC), jointly controlled by the Ontario's Teachers Pension Plan, the Macquarie Group and La Société Fédérale de Participations et d'Investissement/De Federale Participatie- en Investeringsmaatschappij, and Marriott International intend to acquire joint control of Airhotel Belgium, which owns the hotel Sheraton Brussels Airport.

(Case COMP/M.9245; [OJ 2019 C 39/23](#))

First-phase clearance decisions - without commitments**Fosun International/Tom Tailor**

The Commission authorized the acquisition of Tom Tailor Holding by Fosun International.

(Case COMP/M.9233; [Commission Daily News](#), January 29, 2019)

Siemens Project Ventures/Veja Mate Offshore Project

The Commission authorized the acquisition of Veja Mate Offshore Project by Siemens Project Ventures, belonging to the Siemens group.

(Case COMP/M.9240; [Commission Daily News](#), February 1, 2019)

Aunde/Brose/JV

The Commission authorized the creation of a joint venture by AUNDE Group and Brose Fahrzeugteile, belonging to the group Brose.

(Case COMP/M.9174; [Commission Daily News](#), January 28, 2019; [Decision available](#) in German)

EPIC SNCF Mobilités/Ceetrus/JV

The Commission authorized the creation of a joint venture by SNCF Mobilités and Ceetrus France, controlled by the holding company Suraumarché.

(Case COMP/M.9170; [Commission Daily News](#) available in French, January 29, 2019; [Decision available](#) in French)

Ivanhoe Cambridge/Macquarie/RHP Manager/RHP Platform

The Commission authorized the joint acquisition of RHP Platform by Ivanhoe Cambridge, Macquarie Group and RHP Platform.

(Case COMP/M.9232; [Commission Daily News](#), January 29, 2019; [Decision available](#))

CVC Capital Partners/K3

The Commission authorized the acquisition of Ahlsell (K3) by CVC Capital Partners.

(Case COMP/M.9218; [Commission Daily News](#), January 30, 2019; [Decision available](#))

Sumitomo/Mahindra/JV

The Commission authorized the creation of a joint venture by Mahindra Agri Solutions, belonging to the Mahindra Group, and Sumitomo Corporation.

(Case COMP/M.9248; [Commission Daily News](#), January 31, 2019; [Decision available](#))

Haier/Candy

Manufacture and supply of domestic appliances.

(Case COMP/M.9139; [Decision available](#))

Viohalco Group/ACEK Group/Etem JVs

Manufacture of aluminum extruded profiles; commercialization and industrialization of certain post-extrusion activities on extruded profiles.

(Case COMP/M.9231; [Decision available](#))

Denso/AISIN/JV

Research and development, design and sale of integrated powertrains for electric and hybrid vehicles.
(Case COMP/M.9228; [Decision available](#))

Univar/Nexeo

Distribution of chemicals and plastics.
(Case COMP/M.9148; [Decision available](#))

CVC/Recordati

Development and manufacture of pharmaceutical products.
(Case COMP/M.9044; [Decision available](#))

BC Partners/United Group

Provision of telecommunications and media services.
(Case COMP/M.9152; [Decision available](#))

PepsiCo/SodaStream International

Manufacture and commercialization of home carbonation systems as well as concentrates, syrups and flavors.
(Case COMP/M.9108; [Decision available](#))

Tele2/Com Hem Holding

Provision of broadband, TV, mobile and telephony services.
(Case COMP/M.8842; [Decision available](#))

1.3 State Aid

Courts

Articles 107 and 108 TFEU

Order by the General Court dismissing the appeal against Commission Regulation 70/2001 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 EC to State aid in favor of SMEs, Commission Regulation 800/2008 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Articles 87 and 88 EC and Commission Regulation 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 TFEU.
(Case T-513/18 *Fryč v. Commission*, [order](#) of January 15, 2019, available in French)

Komunala Izola Marina (Slovenia)

Hearing in the appeal against the Commission's decision of July 20, 2017, finding that aid measures granted by Slovenia to Komunala Izola did not constitute State aid in the sense of Article 107 TFEU.
(Case T-728/17 *Marinvest and Porting v. Commission*, report for the hearing available in Italian)

Taxation of ports (Belgium)

Hearing in the appeal against the Commission's decision of July 27, 2017, requiring Belgium to abolish the corporate tax exemptions for ports.
(Case T-673/17 *Port autonome du Centre et de l'Ouest and Others v. Commission*, report for the hearing available in French)

Duferco (Belgium)

Appeal against the General Court's judgment of September 18, 2018, dismissing the appeal against the Commission's decision of January 20, 2016, (i) finding that funding granted by the Walloon authorities to several steel companies within the Duferco group between 2006 and 2011 breached EU State aid rules, and (ii) ordering the recovery of the aid.

(Case C-738/18 P *Duferco Long Products v. Commission*, [OJ 2019 C 35/15](#))

Exemption from network charges for large electricity consumers (§19 StromNEV) (Germany)

Appeals against the Commission's decision of May 28, 2018, in which the Commission (i) found that the exemption for certain large electricity users in Germany from network charges in 2012-2013 was against EU State aid rules, and (ii) ordered the recovery of the illegal aid.

(Case T-693/18 *ZY v. Commission*, [OJ 2019 C 35/28](#); Case T-704/18 *Wacker Chemie v. Commission*, [OJ 2019 C 35/30](#); Case T-705/18 *Air Liquide Industriegase v. Commission*, [OJ 2019 C 35/31](#); Case T-706/18 *Air Liquide Deutschland v. Commission*, [OJ 2019 C 35/32](#))

New transitory flexibility mechanism (Greece)

Appeal against the Commission's decision of July 30, 2018, authorizing the planned Greek mechanism to remunerate flexible electricity capacity.

(Case T-694/18 *Dimosia Epicheirisi Ilektrismou (DEI) v. Commission*, [OJ 2019 C 35/29](#))

Commission**General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER)**

Commission roadmap with regard to a targeted modification of the GBER in relation to the EU funding programs.

([Inception impact assessment](#), January 30, 2019; [Feedback page](#))

Review of agricultural State aid guidelines

Commission inception impact assessment with regard to a review of (i) the agricultural State aid guidelines and (ii) the Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation.

([Inception impact assessment](#), January 30, 2019; [Feedback page](#))

Investment aid to LG Chem Wrocław Energy (Poland)

The Commission authorized Poland's investment aid to chemical company LG Chem for a new electric vehicle batteries plant in the Dolnoślaskie region.

([Commission Press Release IP/19/744](#), January 28, 2019)

An exhaustive list of all Commission decisions is available at the Commission [website](#).

EEA**Aid to Perpetuum Circuli (Norway)**

The EFTA Surveillance Authority sent a letter to the complainant regarding a preliminary assessment of a complaint alleging that Norwegian authorities granted unlawful and incompatible state aid to the privately owned company Perpetuum Circuli.

([Letter](#), December 20, 2018)

Landsvirkjun - Hedging derivatives (Iceland)

Publication of the EFTA Surveillance Authority's (ESA) decision of September 26, 2018, finding that State guarantees for Landsvirkjun's hedging derivatives did not involve State aid.

([OJ 2019 L 27/42](#))

2. Financial Services and Monetary Policy

Single Resolution Board (SRB)

Order of the President of the General Court granting leave to intervene to Banco Santander in the appeal against the SRB's decision of November 8, 2017, concerning access to the file.

(Case T-16/18 *Activos e Inversiones Monterosso v. SRB*, [order](#) of January 22, 2019, available in French)

Money laundering

Commission delegated regulation supplementing Directive 2015/849 with regard to Regulatory Technical Standards (RTS) for the minimum action and the type of additional measures credit and financial institutions must take to mitigate money laundering and terrorist financing risk in certain third countries.

([Draft act](#), January 31, 2019)

2019 annual growth survey

- i Amendments by the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development with respect to the draft opinion on the 2019 annual growth survey.

([Amendments](#) 1-63, January 23, 2019)

- ii Amendments by the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs with respect to the draft report on the 2019 annual growth survey.

([Amendments](#) 1-322, January 22, 2019)

European Social Entrepreneurship Fund (EuSEF)

Commission delegated regulation supplementing Regulation 346/2013 with regard to conflicts of interest, social impact measurement and information to investors in the area of European social entrepreneurship funds.

([Draft act](#), February 1, 2019)

Non-Performing Loans (NPLs)

Compromise legal draft with respect to the proposed directive on credit servicers, credit purchasers and the recovery of collateral.

([Compromise legal draft](#), December 14, 2018)

European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB)

- i ESRB recommendation of December 5, 2018, amending Recommendation ESRB/2015/2 on the assessment of cross-border effects of and voluntary reciprocity for macro-prudential policy measures.

([OJ 2019 C 39/1](#))

- ii The ESRB published its report on macro-prudential approaches to Non-Performing Loans (NPLs).

([ESRB Press Release](#), January 28, 2019; [Report](#), January 2019)

Greece

Staff statement following the second post-program mission to Greece.

([Statement](#), January 25, 2019)

2.1 Banks and Investment Services

European Central Bank (ECB)

- i Order by the President of the General Court dismissing the application for interim measures in the appeal against the ECB's act of September 10, 2018, to the effect that any communication of Pilatus Bank to the ECB needs to be made through the 'Competent Person' or include the 'Competent Person's' approval as an attachment.
(Case T-687/18 R *Pilatus Bank v. ECB*, [order](#) of January 21, 2019)
- ii Statement by the Eurogroup President on the nominations for the post of ECB executive board member.
([Council Press Release](#), January 30, 2019)
- iii ECB Decision 2019/137 on the selection of Eurosystem Single Market Infrastructure Gateway (ESMIG) network service providers.
([OJ 2019 L 25/34](#))
- iv ECB opinion of December 7, 2018, on an amended proposed regulation amending Regulation 1093/2010 establishing a European Supervisory Authority (European Banking Authority) and related legal acts.
([OJ 2019 C 37/1](#))
- v The ECB published the results of the December 2018 survey on credit terms and conditions in euro-denominated securities financing and over-the-counter derivatives markets.
([ECB Press Release](#), January 31, 2019; [Report](#), December 2018)
- vi The Eurosystem launched a procurement procedure for market infrastructure connectivity services.
([ECB Press Release](#), January 31, 2019)

Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR)

Reference for a preliminary ruling from an Italian court seeking guidance from the Court of Justice, among other things, on whether Article 29 of Regulation 575/2013, Article 10 of Commission Delegated Regulation 241/2014 and Articles 16 and 17 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU preclude a national provision which, if a people's bank is converted into a company limited by shares, makes it possible for that company to defer or limit, including for an indefinite period, redemption of the shares held by the withdrawing shareholder.

(Case C-686/18 *OC and Others v. Banca d'Italia and Others*, reference for a preliminary ruling: [OJ 2019 C 35/10](#))

Markets in Financial Instruments (MiFIR/MiFID II)

- i Commission delegated regulation amending Delegated Regulation 2017/1799 as regards the exemption of the Bank of England from the pre- and post-trade transparency requirements in Regulation 600/2014.
([Draft act](#), January 30, 2019; [Annex](#), January 30, 2019)
- ii Commission report on an exemption for the Bank of England under the MiFIR.
([COM 2019/69](#), January 30, 2019)
- iii European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) Decision 2019/155 renewing the temporary restriction on the marketing, distribution or sale of contracts for differences to retail clients.
([OJ 2019 L 27/36](#))

- iv The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) published an update of its action plan (within its updated questions and answers on MiFID II and MiFIR transparency topics) for the Systematic Internalizer (SI) regime calculations ahead of the next schedule publication on February 1, 2019.
([ESMA Press Release](#), January 30, 2019; [Questions and answers](#), February 1, 2019)
- v The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) updated its questions and answers regarding market structures and transparency issues under MiFID II and MiFIR.
([ESMA Press Release](#), February 1, 2019; [Questions and answers](#), February 1, 2019; [Questions and answers](#), February 1, 2019)
- vi The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) adopted a decision under Article 40 of Regulation 600/2014 to restrict the marketing, distribution or sale of contracts for differences (CFDs) to retail clients.
([ESMA Press Release](#), January 31, 2019)

European Banking Authority (EBA)

The EBA updated the 2018 list of closely correlated currencies that was originally published in December 2013.

([EBA Press Release](#), January 30, 2019; [List](#))

2.2 Securities Regulation

Market Abuse Regulation (MAR)

- i Commission delegated regulation amending Delegated Regulation 2016/522 as regards the exemption of the Bank of England and the United Kingdom Debt Management Office from the scope of Regulation 596/2014.
([Draft act](#), January 30, 2019; [Annex](#), January 30, 2019)
- ii Commission report on an exemption for the Bank of England and the United Kingdom Debt Management Office under the MAR.
([COM 2019/68](#), January 30, 2019)

Securities Financing Transactions Regulation (SFTR)

- i Commission delegated regulation amending Regulation 2015/2365 with regard to the list of exempted entities.
([Draft act](#), January 30, 2019)
- ii Commission report on the international treatment of central banks and public entities managing the public debt with regard to Securities Financing Transactions (SFTs).
([COM 2019/63](#), January 30, 2019)

European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR)

- i Commission report on the international treatment of central banks and public entities managing public debt with regard to OTC derivatives transactions.
([COM 2019/62](#), January 30, 2019)
- ii Commission delegated regulation of January 30, 2019, amending Regulation 648/2012 with regard to the list of exempted entities.
([Draft act](#), January 30, 2019)

- iii The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) published a statement addressing EMIR Refit implementation.
([ESMA Press Release](#), January 31, 2019; [Public statement](#), January 31, 2019)
- iv The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) published a public statement on how derivatives data reported under the EMIR should be handled in the event of a no-deal Brexit.
([ESMA Press Release](#), February 1, 2019; [Public statement](#), February 1, 2019)
- v The European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB) published a report on CCP interoperability arrangements for central counterparties.
([Report](#), January 2019)

European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA)

- i The ESMA published three questions and answers regarding the Prospectus Directive (PD) and the Transparency Directive (TD), clarifying the application of certain provisions in these Directives in the case of a no-deal Brexit.
([ESMA Press Release](#), January 31, 2019; [Questions and answers](#), January 31, 2019; [Questions and answers](#), January 31, 2019)
- ii The ESMA published an update of its questions and answers on the Benchmarks Regulation (BMR).
([ESMA Press Release](#), January 30, 2019; [Questions and answers](#), January 30, 2019)
- iii The ESMA updated its questions and answers regarding the implementation of the Central Securities Depository Regulation (CSDR).
([ESMA Press Release](#), January 30, 2019; [Questions and answers](#), January 30, 2019)
- iv The ESMA appointed the new chair of its Investment Management Standing Committee (IMSC).
([ESMA Press Release](#), January 30, 2019)
- v The ESMA published an opinion and questions and answers on disclosure technical standards under the Securitization Regulation.
([ESMA Press Release](#), January 31, 2019; [Opinion](#), January 31, 2019; [Questions and answers](#), January 31, 2019)
- vi The ESMA and European securities regulators agreed no-deal Brexit Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the UK's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).
([ESMA Press Release](#), February 1, 2019)

2.3 Insurance and Pensions

Pension products

Report by the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs with regard to tax treatment of pension products, including the Pan-European Personal Pension Product (PEPP).
([Report](#), December 20, 2018)

Solvency II

Decision of the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB) of November 14, 2018, on a coordination framework for consultation by a supervisory authority with the ESRB on an extension of the period under Article 138(4) of Directive 2009/138.
([OJ 2019 C 36/31](#))

European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA)

- i The EIOPA published its updated risk dashboard based on the third quarter of 2018.
([EIOPA Press Release](#), January 31, 2019; [Risk dashboard](#), January 31, 2019)
- ii The EIOPA's Board of Supervisors elected, effective immediately, Patrick Montagner as a new member of its Management Board.
([EIOPA Press Release](#), January 30, 2019)

2.4 EMU**Global role of the euro**

- i The Commission started an additional targeted consultation on the euro and market liquidity in foreign exchange markets.
([Commission Daily News](#), January 28, 2019; [Consultation page](#))
- ii The Commission started a consultation on the role of the euro in non-energy non-agricultural raw materials (metals and minerals).
([Consultation page](#))

“Bulgaria’s path to the Euro: A business perspective”

Keynote speech by Commissioner Dombrovskis in Sofia on January 29, 2019.
([Speech](#), January 29, 2019)

3. Trade and External Relations**EU/Canada**

Opinion by the Advocate General Bot advising the Court of Justice to hold that the mechanism for the settlement of disputes between investors and States provided for by the free trade agreement between the EU and Canada is compatible with EU law.

(Advocate General [opinion](#) of January 29, 2019; [Court Press Release](#), January 29, 2019)

Horizontal safeguard regulation

The Council adopted a regulation implementing bilateral safeguard clauses and other mechanisms allowing for the temporary withdrawal of preferences in certain trade agreements concluded between the EU and third countries.

([Council Press Release](#), January 28, 2019; [Consolidated text](#) of regulation, January 17, 2019)

EU/US relations

The Commission published a progress report on the implementation of the 2018 joint statement agreed by Presidents Juncker and Trump.

([Commission Press Release](#) IP/19/784, January 30, 2019; [Report](#), January 30, 2019)

EU/China

The Council adopted a decision on the conclusion of an agreement between the EU and China in connection with a dispute and settlement case related to measures affecting tariff concessions on certain poultry meat products.

([Council Press Release](#), January 28, 2019)

EU/Japan

The Council adopted a decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the EU within the working group on wine established by the agreement between the EU and Japan in the framework of their bilateral economic partnership agreement.

([Council Press Release](#), January 28, 2019)

EU/Morocco

The Council adopted a decision concluding the agreement on the extension of tariff preferences in the association agreement with Morocco to the Western Sahara, following the European Parliament's consent to the modification to the agreement.

([Council Press Release](#), January 28, 2019)

EU/Georgia

The Commission published the third association implementation report on Georgia.

([Commission Press Release](#) IP/19/747, January 31, 2019; [Joint staff working document](#), January 30, 2019)

Steel products

- i The Commission imposed definitive safeguard measures on imports of steel products.
([Commission Press Release](#) IP/19/821, February 1, 2019)
- ii Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/159 imposing definitive safeguard measures against imports of certain steel products.
([OJ 2019 L 31/27](#))

EU/Singapore

- i Report by the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs containing a motion for a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the EU, of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Singapore.
([Report](#), January 24, 2019)
- ii Recommendation by the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the EU, of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Singapore.
([Recommendation](#), January 23, 2019)
- iii Recommendation by the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement between the EU and Singapore.
([Recommendation](#), January 30, 2019)
- iv Recommendation by the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the EU, of the Investment Protection Agreement between the EU and Singapore.
([Recommendation](#), January 30, 2019)
- v Report by the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade containing a motion for a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the EU, of the Investment Protection Agreement between the EU and Singapore.
([Report](#), January 29, 2019)

- vi Report by the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade containing a motion for a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement between the EU and Singapore.

([Report](#), January 29, 2019)

EU/Tunisia

The Commission published the texts proposed by the EU for a deep and comprehensive free trade area with Tunisia.

([Textual proposal](#) available in French, October 26, 2018; [Textual proposal](#) available in French, November 9, 2018; [Textual proposal](#) available in French, November 8, 2018; [Textual proposal](#) available in French, May 25, 2018; [Textual proposal](#) available in French, November 28, 2018)

EU/SADC EPA States

- i Council decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the EU within the Joint Council established under the Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and the SADC EPA States, as regards the adoption of the rules of procedure of the Joint Council and of the Trade and Development Committee.

([Text](#) of decision, January 31, 2019)

- ii Council Decision 2019/118 on the position to be taken on behalf of the EU within the Trade and Development Committee established under the economic partnership agreement between the EU and the SADC EPA States, as regards the establishment of a list of arbitrators.

([OJ 2019 L 24/23](#))

- iii Council Decision 2019/117 on the position to be taken on behalf of the EU within the Joint Council established under the economic partnership agreement between the EU and the SADC EPA States, as regards the adoption of the Rules of Procedure for dispute avoidance and settlement and the Code of Conduct for arbitrators and mediators.

([OJ 2019 L 24/12](#))

Torture products

Regulation 2019/125 concerning trade in certain goods which could be used for capital punishment, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

([OJ 2019 L 30/1](#))

World Trade Organization (WTO)

Council Decision 2019/143 on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the EU and China in connection with DS492 European Union - Measures affecting Tariff Concessions on Certain Poultry Meat Products.

([OJ 2019 L 27/2](#); Agreement: [OJ 2019 L 27/4](#))

3.1 Customs

Customs Code

European Parliament resolution of January 31, 2019, with respect to the inclusion of the municipality of Campione d'Italia and the Italian waters of Lake Lugano in the customs territory of the Union.

([Resolution](#), January 31, 2019)

3.2 Preferential Agreements

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)

- i Council Decision 2019/116 on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the EU and Norway on the cumulation of origin between the EU, Switzerland, Norway and Turkey in the framework of the GSP.
([OJ 2019 L 24/1](#); Agreement: [OJ 2019 L 24/3](#))
- ii Council Decision 2019/131 on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the EU and Switzerland on the cumulation of origin between the EU, Switzerland, Norway and Turkey in the framework of the GSP.
([OJ 2019 L 25/1](#); Agreement: [OJ 2019 L 25/3](#))

3.3 Anti-Dumping and Anti-Subsidy

Crystalline silicon photovoltaic modules and key components (i.e. cells) originating in or consigned from China

Hearing in the appeal against Commission Implementing Regulation 2016/2146 withdrawing the acceptance of the undertaking for two exporting producers under Implementing Decision 2013/707 confirming the acceptance of an undertaking offered in connection with the anti-dumping and anti-subsidy proceedings for the period of application of definitive measures.

(Case T-110/17 *Jiangsu Seraphim Solar System v. Commission*, report for the hearing)

3.4 Sanctions

Iran

The Court of Justice dismissed the appeal against the General Court's judgment of February 17, 2017, dismissing the appeals against Council Decision 2013/497/CFSP amending Decision 2010/413/CFSP, Council Regulation 971/2013 amending Regulation 267/2012, Council Decision 2013/685/CFSP amending Decision 2010/413/CFSP, and Council Implementing Regulation 1203/2013 implementing Regulation 267/2012.

(Case C-225/17 P *Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines and Others v. Council*, [judgment](#) of January 31, 2019)

Syria

- i The General Court annulled Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/917 amending Decision 2013/255/CFSP, Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/778 amending Decision 2013/255/CFSP and Regulation 36/2012 repealing Regulation 442/2011, insofar as they concern the applicant.
(Case T-559/17 *Abdulkarim v. Council*, [judgment](#) of January 31, 2019, available in French)
- ii The General Court annulled Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2017/1245 implementing Decision 2013/255/CFSP, Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/778 amending Decision 2013/255/CFSP and Regulation 36/2012 repealing Regulation 442/2011 insofar as they concern the applicant.
(Case T-667/17 *Alkarimfor Trade and Industry v. Council*, [judgment](#) of January 31, 2019, available in French)

Tunisia

- i The Council (i) extended a freeze on the assets of persons deemed to be responsible for the misappropriation of State funds in Tunisia and those persons and entities associated with them, and (ii) decided to remove one person from the sanctions list.
([Council Press Release](#), January 28, 2019)
- ii Council Implementing Regulation 2019/132 implementing Regulation 101/2011.
([OJ 2019 L 25/12](#))
- iii Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/135 amending Decision 2011/72/CFSP.
([OJ 2019 L 25/23](#))
- iv Notice for the attention of the data subjects to whom the restrictive measures provided for in Council Decision 2011/72/CFSP, as amended by Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/135, and in Council Regulation 101/2011, as implemented by Council Implementing Regulation 2019/132, apply.
([OJ 2019 C 36/3](#))
- v Notice for the attention of the persons subject to restrictive measures provided for in Council Decision 2011/72/CFSP, as amended by Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/135, and in Council Regulation 101/2011, as implemented by Council Implementing Regulation 2019/132.
([OJ 2019 C 36/2](#))

Ukraine

The General Court annulled Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/381 amending Decision 2014/119/CFSP and Council Implementing Regulation 2017/374 implementing Regulation 208/2014, in so far as the applicant's name was maintained on the list of persons, entities and bodies subject to those restrictive measures.

(Case T-290/17 *Stavytskyi v. Council*, [judgment](#) of January 30, 2019)

4. Data Protection and Intellectual Property

4.1 Data Protection

Processing of personal data

Commission Decision 2019/154 laying down internal rules concerning the restriction of the right of access of data subjects to their medical files.

([OJ 2019 L 27/33](#))

4.2 Intellectual Property

Copyright

Opinion in the form of a letter by the European Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs on the legal basis of the proposed directive laying down rules on the exercise of copyright and related rights applicable to certain online transmissions of broadcasting organizations and retransmissions of television and radio programs.

([Opinion](#), January 24, 2019)

Supplementary protection certificates

Report by the European Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs on the proposed regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 469/2009 concerning the supplementary protection certificate for medicinal products.

([Report](#), January 28, 2019)

5. Energy

Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030

The Commission published a reflection paper on a more sustainable Europe by 2030.

([Commission Press Release IP/19/701](#), January 30, 2019; [Reflection paper](#), January 30, 2019)

Energy efficiency

EU Member States' ambassadors endorsed a technical adjustment of the energy consumption figures in the newly revised energy efficiency directive to take account of the withdrawal of the UK from the EU.

([Council Press Release](#), January 30, 2019)

Carbon capture and storage and innovative renewable energy technologies

The Council adopted conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report on demonstrating carbon capture and storage and innovative renewables at commercial scale in the EU.

([Council Press Release](#), January 28, 2019)

Gas and electricity markets

The Commission published its latest reports on gas and electricity markets, which cover the third quarter of 2018.

([Commission Press Release](#), January 28, 2019; [Report](#), 2019; [Report](#), 2019)

Biofuels

- i The Commission concluded that US soya beans meet the technical requirements to be used in biofuels in the EU, and formally recognized the scheme until July 1, 2021.

([Commission Press Release IP/19/748](#), January 29, 2019)

- ii Commission Implementing Decision 2019/142 on recognition of the 'U.S. Soybean Sustainability Assurance Protocol' for demonstrating compliance with the sustainability criteria under Directives 98/70 and 2009/28.

([OJ 2019 L 26/10](#))

Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)

- i The ACER started a consultation on the amendments to the determination of Capacity Calculation Regions (CCR).

([Consultation page](#))

- ii The ACER published a monitoring report on the implementation of Commission Regulation 2015/1222 on capacity allocation and congestion management (CACM Regulation) and Commission Regulation 2016/1719 on forward capacity allocation (FCA Regulation).

([ACER Press Release](#), January 30, 2019; [Report](#), January 29, 2019)

- iii ACER opinion 7/2019 on the ENTSO-E Winter Outlook Report 2018/2019 and Summer Review 2018.

([Opinion](#), January 30, 2019)

- iv ACER opinion 9/2019 on the adoption of ENTSOG's common network operation tools.
([Opinion](#), January 30, 2019)
- v ACER opinion 8/2019 on the amended second update of the manual of procedures for the ENTSO-E central information transparency platform.
([Opinion](#), January 30, 2019)

Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER)

- i The CEER elected Dr. Annegret Groebel as the new CEER President.
([CEER Press Release](#), January 24, 2019)
- ii The CEER and the Regional Association of Energy Regulators for Eastern and Southern Africa (RAERESA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that establishes a three-year collaboration between European and Eastern/Southern African energy regulators.
([CEER Press Release](#), January 29, 2019)

6. Institutions

Brexit

- i The Council endorsed the European Parliament's position at first reading regarding the proposed regulation on tariff rate quotas after the UK's withdrawal from the EU.
([Council Press Release](#), January 28, 2019)
- ii The Commission adopted a final set of contingency proposals in the area of the Erasmus+ program, social security coordination and the EU budget.
([Commission Press Release](#) IP/19/743, January 30, 2019)
- iii The Council's Permanent Representatives Committee approved a mandate for the Presidency to start talks with the European Parliament on a proposal to ensure continued validity of certain aviation safety certificates.
([Council Press Release](#), February 1, 2019)

European Parliament

- i The European Parliament adopted changes to its internal rules to operate more efficiently and in a more transparent way.
([EP Press Release](#), January 31, 2019; [Decision](#), January 31, 2019)
- ii President Tajani and EUROCHAMBRES President Leitl signed an agreement to work closer together for the European elections.
([EP Press Release](#), January 30, 2019)
- iii Report by the European Parliament's Committee on Constitutional Affairs on the implementation of the Treaty provisions on Parliament's power of political control over the Commission.
([Report](#), January 28, 2019)

Court of Justice

The representatives of the governments of the Member States appointed ten judges and an advocate-general to the Court of Justice.
([Council Press Release](#), February 1, 2019)

Future of Europe

Report by the European Parliament's Committee on Constitutional Affairs on the state of the debate on the future of Europe.

([Report](#), December 5, 2018)

Enhanced cooperation

Report by the European Parliament's Committee on Constitutional Affairs on the implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning enhanced cooperation.

([Report](#), January 28, 2019)

European Ombudsman

Report by the European Parliament's Committee on Constitutional Affairs on a draft regulation laying down the regulations and general conditions governing the performance of the Ombudsman's duties and repealing Decision 94/262.

([Report](#), January 29, 2019)

Public holidays

Commission decision of January 28, 2019, on public holidays for 2020 for the institutions of the EU.

([OJ 2019 C 38/4](#))

CALENDAR OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE AND GENERAL COURT

The Court calendar is available at the Curia [website](#).

SELECTED BOOKS AND ARTICLES**Articles**

- **“Droit européen de la concurrence: pratiques anticoncurrentielles”**

by L. Idot, *Revue trimestrielle de droit européen*, No. 4, October/December 2018, pp. 795-825.

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