**ANTITRUST & COMPETITION**

*Non-opposition* to a notified concentration (Case COMP/M.6786 - EPH/SPP)

*Non-opposition* to a notified concentration (Case COMP/M.6771 - Bridgepoint CPPIB/Dorna)

Prior notification of a concentration (Case COMP/M.6731 - Vitronet/Infinity)

Google closes in on settlement with EU (See the Statement by Vice President Almunia) 
*Financial Times 19.12.2012*

Commission clears acquisition of retail chain of German tegut...-group by Swiss Migros 
*Midday Express 19.12.2012*

Commission clears acquisition of Dutch agricultural trader Cefetra by German rival BayWa 
*Midday Express 19.12.2012*

Samsung bows to regulators and ends European fight with Apple 

UPS offers asset disposals to win TNT deal approval 

**STATE AID**

Communication from the Commission to the Member States on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the TFEU to short-term export-credit insurance

Commission adopts new Broadband Guidelines (*IP/12/1424 & Guidelines*)

**Commission authorises €2.66 billion state aid to Italian agricultural sector after May earthquakes (*IP/12/1418*)**

**Commission approves German scheme supporting noise reduction in rail freight transport (*IP/12/1415*)**

**Commission orders recovery of €360 million unlawful aid from Italian ground handling operator SEA Handling (*IP/12/1414*)**

**Commission clears support for urban regeneration projects in Greece and Bulgaria (*IP/12/1413*)**

**Commission finds Italian ICI real estate tax exemptions for non-commercial entities incompatible and clears amended exemptions under new IMU law (*IP/12/1412*)**

**Commission authorises transitional free allocation of greenhouse gas emission allowances for modernisation of Czech and Hungarian electricity sector (*IP/12/1411*)**

**Commission approves capital injection to finalise construction of Berlin Brandenburg airport (*IP/12/1410*)**

**Commission approves €100 million aid for infrastructure at Port of Augusta, Sicily (*IP/12/1409*)**

**TRADE & CUSTOMS**

*Agenda* for: Trade Policy Committee (Full Members) on 19 December 2012

*Notice* concerning the provisional application of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the EU and the Russian Federation relating to the
introduction or increase of export duties on raw materials

Notice concerning the provisional application of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the EU and the Government of the Russian Federation relating to the preservation of commitments on trade in services contained in the current EU-Russia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

Notice concerning the provisional application of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the EU and the Russian Federation relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the EU and the Protocol between the EU and the Government of the Russian Federation on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement

Council Decision of 11 December 2012 on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the EU and the Russian Federation relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the EU and the Protocol between the EU and the Government of the Russian Federation on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement

EU welcomes bilateral deal on Bosnia and Herzegovina’s WTO accession process (See WTO website & IP/12/1425)

EFTA and Central America move towards finalisation of free trade negotiations

European Parliament workshop on TDI modernisation - Address by Sven Gören

Towards an EU-Canada comprehensive economic and trade agreement (CETA) - Letter from Markus Beyrer to Karel De Gucht

EU-Russia Summit: EU27 deficit in trade of goods with Russia down to €65 bn in the first 9 months of 2012 (Stat/12/188)


WTO - Panel established on US countervailing and anti-dumping measures on Chinese products


Commission adopts roadmap for reform of agencies (IP/12/1396)

European Commission appoints new Head of Representation in London (IP/12/1407)

Speech by Michel Barnier: "The European banking union, a precondition to financial stability and a historical step forward for European integration"

Commission adopts technical standards for the Regulation on OTC derivatives, central counterparties and trade repositories (IP/12/1419)

Commission adopts implementing rules for the Directive on Alternative Investment Fund Managers (IP/12/1417)

ESMA clarifies rules for alternative investment funds and their managers

Search starts for next President of European Research Council (IP/12/1393)
European Globalisation Fund pays €25.3 million to help redundant workers in France, Ireland, The Netherlands, Spain and Sweden (IP/12/1400)

EIB bolsters entrepreneurship in Turkey with €100 million in tandem with ING

EIB - Seminar on Applications for Authorisation on 11-12 February 2013

October 2012 compared with September 2012 - Euro area production in construction down by 1.6% - Up by 1.6% in EU27

Energy

Photovoltaic Industry calls on EU to take action against Member States that backtrack on support for renewable

EU announces major support to pioneering renewable energy and water plant in Djibouti (IP/12/1405)

Environment

Speech by Janez Potočnik: "Giving the World a Sustainable Future"

Health & Consumer Protection

Tobacco products: towards bigger health warnings and ban of strong flavourings (IP/12/1391, Memo/12/1005, the Proposal, the Impact assessment and its Summary, Citizens’ summary & Current Directive and Speech by Tonio Borg)


EFSA - Opinion on the modification of the existing MRL for spiromesifen in tea

EFSA - Opinion on the modification of the existing MRLs for acetamiprid in purslane, legume vegetables and pulses (beans and peas)

EFSA - Opinion on an application (EFSA-GMO-NL-2012-107) for the placing on the market of maize MON 810 pollen under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Monsanto

Reports on toxicokinetics, toxicity and allergenicity data on substances to be evaluated as acceptable previous cargoes for edible fats and oils (NP/EFSA/CONTAM/2011/01) – Batches n. 1, 2 and 3

EFSA - Opinion on a request from the European Commission for the assessment of the scientific elements put forward by Hungary to support the prohibition for the placing on the market of GM potato EH92-527-1 for cultivation purposes in Hungary

EFSA - Caramel colours: consumer exposure lower than previously estimated

French law to restrict the use of Bisphenol A (BPA) in food packaging has no safety benefit for consumers, disregards European law and risk assessment, and severely distorts the internal and international market (Statement by Plastic Europe)

Transport

Background note - 3213th Transport on 20 December 2012 (Memo/12/1007)

Commission proposes new rules to prevent aircraft accidents (IP/12/1406 & Memo/12/1008)

EIB supports upgrade of Warsaw Metro with €139 million

Telecoms & Medias


Digital Agenda: European innovation lighting the way (IP/12/1404)
Telecommunications Council on 20 December 2012 (Memo/12/1007)

EU approves New Zealand’s data protection standards in step to boost trade (IP/12/1403)

**Justice & Home Affairs**


MEPs call for strict rules on use of asylum seekers’ fingerprint database (See the EP Statement)

Speech by Viviane Reding: "The Common European Sales Law – a useful tool for business"

EU to review Microsoft’s new terms of use (Financial Times 19.12.2012)

**Euro & Economy**

ECB announces change in eligibility of debt instruments issued or guaranteed by the Greek government

Distribution of responsibilities among the Members of the Executive Board of the ECB


EIB approves €500 million for trade finance in Greece


Speech by Jörg Asmusslen: «Agenda 2013: the next steps in completing EMU»

**Ext. Relations & Accession**

30th EU-Russia Summit, Brussels 20-21 December 2012 (See Factsheet)

2nd meeting of the Accession Conference with Montenegro at Ministerial level - Start of substantial negotiations (See the Statement Catherine Ashton)

3rd meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Council between the EU and Montenegro (See the Joint press Release)

Main Results of the 13th EU-Georgia Cooperation Council (See Press Remarks of Stefan Füle)

The EU’s support for Integration of the Maghreb countries (IP/12/1420)