

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

[Wall Street Journal Europe 19.12.2012 p.20](#)

UPS offers asset disposals to win TNT deal approval

[Wall Street Journal Europe 19.12.2012 p.19](#)

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**

[Notice](#) concerning the **provisional application** of the **Agreement** between the EU and the **Government of the Russian Federation** on **trade in parts and components of motor vehicles** between the EU and the **Russian Federation**

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** **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 - [Trade Policy Review](#): United States of America on **18 and 20 December 2012**

WTO - Panel [established](#) on US countervailing and anti-dumping measures on Chinese products

EU-Chinese trade relations under pressure?
[European Voice 19.12.2012](#)

INTERNAL MARKET & GENERAL

Commission adopts [roadmap](#) for **reform of agencies** ([IP/12/1396](#))

European Commission appoints **new Head of Representation in London** ([IP/12/1407](#))

FINANCE & TAXATION

[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**

INDUSTRY, ENTERPRISES, RESEARCH

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

ECHA - 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) [European Voice 19.12.2012](#)

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

Commission [Recommendation](#) of 12 December 2012 on the notification procedure provided for in Article 22(3) of Directive [2002/22/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications networks and services

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

[Proposal](#) for a **Regulation** of the **European Parliament** and of the **Council** amending **Council Regulation** (EC) No 1346/2000 on **insolvency proceedings** (See [Report on the Application & COM\(2012\) 742 final](#))

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**

Euro area balance of **payments** in **October 2012**
[ECB Statistical press release 19.12.2012](#)

Euro area investment fund statistics
[ECB Statistical press release 19.12.2012](#)

EIB approves [€ 500 million](#) for **trade finance** in **Greece**

EU urges **action** on **big deficits**
[Wall Street Journal Europe 19.12.2012 p.5](#)

[Speech](#) by **Jörg Asmussen**: « **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 Štefan Füle)

The EU's **support** for **Integration** of the **Maghreb countries** ([IP/12/1420](#))