

**Competition**

[Non-opposition](#) to a notified concentration (Case [M.9010](#) - JAB/Pret A Manger)

[Non-opposition](#) to a notified concentration (Case [M.9193](#) - Fairfax Financial Holdings/Eurolife ERB Insurance Group)

[Non-opposition](#) to a notified concentration (Case [M.9159](#) - CVC/MUFG/Ngern Tid Lor)

Prior [notification](#) of a concentration (Case [M.9201](#) - Siemens/TUTPL/SPC JV)

Prior [notification](#) of a concentration (Case [M.9095](#) - UPL/Arysta LifeScience)

**Commission fines BEH Group € 77 million for blocking access to key natural gas infrastructure in Bulgaria** ([IP/18/6846](#))

**Commission fines Guess €40 million for anticompetitive agreements to block cross-border sales** ([IP/18/6844](#))

**Commission clears acquisition of sole control over U-Shin by MinebeaMitsumi** ([M.9212](#))  
[Midday Express 17.12.2018](#)

**CMA [provisionally approves](#) Menzies Aviation (UK) / Airline Services merger**

**Bundeskartellamt [has cleared](#) the acquisition of the waste management company Helene Müntefering-Gockeln GmbH & Co. KG, Herne, by Remondis GmbH & Co. KG, Bochum – 13.12.2018**

**Bundeskartellamt – List of [Notified Merger](#) Projects – 14.12.2018**

**State Aid**

**Romania needs to recover incompatible aid from petrochemical company Oltchim** ([IP/18/6845](#))

**Commission clears Croatian short-term export-credit insurance scheme** ([SA.51270](#))  
[Midday Express 17.12.2018](#)

**Commission prolongs [Communication](#) on short-term export-credit; authorises Member States to provide public export insurance for transactions with Greek buyers until December 2019**  
[Midday Express 17.12.2018](#)

**Commission publishes non-confidential version of decision concluding that Luxembourg did not give selective tax treatment to McDonald's** ([SA.38945](#))  
[Midday Express 17.12.2018](#)

**Trade & Customs**

**Draft Council [Conclusions](#) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Progress Report on the Implementation of the EU Strategy and Action Plan for Customs Risk Management - Adoption**

**Notice of initiation of an [expiry review](#) of the anti-dumping measures applicable to imports of peroxosulphates (persulphates) originating in the P.R. of China**

**Commission Decision (EU) [2018/1996](#) of 14.12.2018 laying down internal rules concerning the provision of information to data subjects and the restriction of certain of their rights in the context of the processing of personal data for the purpose of trade defence and trade policy investigations**

EU steps up **engagement** with **Republic of Korea** over [labour commitments](#) under the **trade agreement**

**Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA)** in **support** of **FTA negotiations** between the EU and [Malaysia](#) - **Draft Interim Report**

**Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA)** in **support** of **FTA negotiations** between the EU and [Philippines](#) - **Draft Interim Report**

EU and **ACP countries** conclude **first round** of **negotiations** to **modernise** their **relations** ([IP/18/6813](#), [Memo/18/5903](#))

**Euro area** [international trade](#) in **goods** surplus €14.0 bn - €7.7 bn **deficit** for **EU28**

**WTO - Appellate Body** issues **report** on revised US [“dolphin-safe”](#) **tuna labelling measure** (DS381)

**WTO - India** appeals **panel ruling** in **dispute** with **Japan** over [safeguard duties](#) on **steel products** (DS518)

**Germany** tightens **foreign acquisition rules** amid **China’s push** for **technology deals**  
[Wall Street Journal 17.12.2018](#)

**US farm groups** plead to add **agriculture** to **EU trade talks** - *Pork lobby warns Brussels would get ‘enormous tactical victory’ if issue is excluded*  
[Financial Times 17.12.2018](#)

## Internal Market & General

[Investment Plan Results](#) - **Breakdown** of **results** by **country** and **sector** from the **European Fund** for **Strategic Investments (EFSD)**  
[Midday Express 17.12.2018](#)

**Employment** and **social developments** in **Europe**: [Record number](#) of **people** in **employment** in the EU ([Statistical annex](#))  
[Midday Express 17.12.2018](#)

EU **companies** increase **research investments** amidst **global technological race**  
[Midday Express 17.12.2018](#)

## Financial Services

**Commission** proposes to extend **equivalence** for **Swiss share trading venues** for **six months** ([IP/18/6801](#))

EBA sees [further improvements](#) in **EU banks resilience** but highlights **challenges** connected to **profitability, funding** and **operational risk**

## Agriculture & Fisheries

**Situation** in the [pigmeat market](#) - **Information** from the **Polish delegation**

**Massive forest damages** in **Europe** - [Information](#) from the **Italian delegation** - [Annex](#)

**Council** adopts [2019 catch limits](#) for **Black Sea fisheries**

## Energy

**Recent developments** in the **field** of **external energy relations** - [Information](#) from the **Commission**

**Proposal** for a **Directive** of the **European Parliament** and of the **Council** amending **Directive** [2009/73/EC](#) concerning **common rules** for the **internal market** in **natural gas** - [Information](#) from the **Presidency**

## Environment & Climate Change

**Agenda** for: **Working Party** on the [Environment](#) of **17.12.2018**

**Proposal** for a **Regulation** of the **European Parliament** and of the **Council** setting **CO2 emission performance standards** for **new heavy-duty vehicles** - [General approach](#)

**Proposal** for a **Regulation** of the **European Parliament** and of the **Council** amending **Regulation (EU) 2016/1011** on **low carbon benchmarks** and **positive carbon impact benchmarks** - [Mandate](#) for **negotiations** with the EP- [Presidency compromise text](#)

UN climate talks: EU plays **instrumental role** in making the [Paris Agreement](#) operational ([IP/18/6824](#))

## Health, Food & Products Safety

**Agenda** for: **Working Party** on [Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices](#) of **08.01.2019**

**Agenda** for: **Working Party** on **Public Health - Working Party** on [Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices](#) of **08.01.2019**

**Agenda** for: **Working Party** on **Foodstuffs** (Counsellors/Attachés: Agri-Veterinary Matters; Agri-EFSA & Agri-Phytosanitary Matters) of **19.12.2018**

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain amending Regulation (EC) No [178/2002](#) [on general food law], Directive [2001/18/EC](#) [on the deliberate release into the environment of GMOs], Regulation (EC) No [1829/2003](#) [on GM food and feed], Regulation (EC) No [1831/2003](#) [on feed additives], Regulation (EC) No [2065/2003](#) [on smoke flavourings], Regulation (EC) No [1935/2004](#) [on food contact materials], Regulation (EC) No [1331/2008](#) [on the common authorisation procedure for food additives, food enzymes and food flavourings], Regulation (EC) No [1107/2009](#) [on plant protection products] and Regulation (EU) No [2015/2283](#) [on novel foods] - [General approach - Statement](#)

**REACH**: **Commission** further **limits** consumers' **harmful exposure** to **phthalates** (More information) [Midday Express 17.12.2018](#)

**Expert Group** on **Health Information** (11.12.2018) - [Flash report & presentations](#)

**EU Health Policy Platform annual meeting** - [Presentations & pictures](#) - (12.11.2018)

## Digital & Information Society

**Regulation** (EU) [2018/1971](#) of the **European Parliament** and of the **Council** of **11.12.2018** establishing the **Body** of

**European Regulators** for **Electronic Communications** (BEREC) and the **Agency for Support** for BEREC (**BEREC Office**), amending **Regulation** (EU) [2015/2120](#) and **repealing Regulation** (EC) No [1211/2009](#)

**Directive** (EU) [2018/1972](#) of the **European Parliament** and of the **Council** of **11.12.2018** establishing the **European Electronic Communications Code**

## Data Privacy & Cybersecurity

**Agenda** for: **Meeting** of the **Horizontal Working Party** on [Cyber Issues](#) of **19.12.2018**

## Justice, Migrations & Home Affairs

**Western Mediterranean Route**: EU reinforces **support** to **Morocco** ([IP/18/6705](#))

**Statement** by the **European Commission** and the **H.R** on the **occasion** of **International Migrants Day 2018**

## Euro, ECB & Economy

**Draghi** launches **defence** of EU and **euro** against **nationalism** (Speech by [Mario Draghi](#)) [Financial Times 17.12.2018](#)

**Annual inflation** down to **1.9%** in the **euro area** - Down to **2.0%** in the EU

## Future of Europe & Brexit

**May** threatens to crash **Brexit deal** after **summit showdown** - *PM warns of snap vote to kill plan but EU refuses to budge* [Financial Times 17.12.2018](#)

## Foreign Affairs

EU regional **Trust Fund** in **Response** to the **Syrian crisis**: **new projects** worth **€122 million** adopted for **refugees** and **local communities** in **Jordan, Iraq, and Turkey** ([IP/18/6809](#) & [Factsheet](#))

**Joint press statement** following the **5th Association Council meeting** between the EU and **Ukraine**