



Daily News 18 / 11 / 2019

Brussels, 18 November 2019

Commission welcomes final adoption of new rules on cross-border mobility of companies

Today, the Council adopted the Directive on cross-border conversions, mergers and divisions that provides clear harmonised procedures for companies to merge, divide or move within the Single Market. The Directive includes strong safeguards to protect employees' rights, especially to be informed, consulted and to participate in the boards of companies, as well as rights of minority shareholders and creditors during cross-border operations. The new rules also ensure that cross-border operations cannot be misused for fraudulent or abusive purposes. Věra **Jourová**, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, said: *"I welcome the final adoption of the new rules on cross-border mobility for companies. The new rules will give EU businesses more opportunities to move and grow by providing clear procedures for companies, which will cut costs and save time. At the same time, there will be strong safeguards to protect employees' rights and to prevent abuse."* More information about EU rules in Company Law and Corporate Governance is available [online](#). (For more information: Christian Wigand – Tel.: +32 229 62253; Sara Soumilion – Tel.: +32 229 67094; Athina Reuter – Tel.: +32 229 82390)

25ème anniversaire de l'Office de l'Union européenne pour la propriété intellectuelle

À l'occasion du 25ème anniversaire de l'[Office de l'Union européenne pour la propriété intellectuelle](#) (EUIPO), Elżbieta **Bieńkowska**, commissaire en charge du marché intérieur, de l'industrie, de l'entrepreneuriat et des PME, a déclaré: *« La protection de la propriété intellectuelle est au cœur d'une économie européenne compétitive, en stimulant l'innovation et la créativité et en créant des emplois et de la croissance. C'est pourquoi nous devons intensifier la lutte contre la contrefaçon et le piratage, et continuer à renforcer notre régime de propriété intellectuelle afin de veiller à ce qu'elle soit cohérente et adaptée à l'ère numérique. L'Office de l'Union européenne pour la propriété intellectuelle joue un rôle essentiel dans la réalisation de cet objectif. »* L'EUIPO, basé à Alicante, en Espagne, a été créé par la Commission européenne pour gérer le système de [marques de l'Union européenne](#) et le système de [dessin ou modèle communautaire](#) enregistré. Depuis le 1er avril 1996, les sociétés ont commencé à enregistrer leurs marques, bénéficiant ainsi d'une protection valable dans tous les États membres de l'UE. Depuis lors, l'EUIPO a reçu plus de deux millions de demandes d'enregistrement de marques. Elle a également élargi son rôle, permettant d'enregistrer des dessins, avec une protection valable dans l'ensemble de l'UE (plus d'un million de demandes depuis 2003). D'après une [étude](#) réalisée en 2019, la propriété intellectuelle contribue au PIB européen à hauteur de 40% et à un emploi sur trois dans l'UE. Les petites et moyennes entreprises qui déposent des demandes de brevets, de marques ou de dessins ou modèles ont une plus forte probabilité de connaître une croissance soutenue par rapport aux PME qui ne le font pas. (Pour plus d'informations: Lucía Caudet – Tél. + 32 229 56182; Marietta Grammenou – Tél. + 32 229 83583)

Commission announces the composition of a High-Level Forum to take forward the Capital Markets Union

The European Commission is today announcing the composition of a High-Level Forum on the future of the Capital Markets Union (CMU). This group of experts will provide insight and support the Commission's goal to develop further a Capital Markets Union encompassing all Member States, so they can mobilise capital for businesses, offer better investment opportunities and boost economic growth in Europe. Vice-President Valdis **Dombrovskis**, responsible for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, said: *"The EU is pushing for stronger and competitive capital markets, so that businesses and investors can reap the full benefits of the single market. We have already established the building blocks of a CMU and now we have to reflect and consult on how to take this flagship project forward. This is why the Commission is bringing together high-calibre experts from industry and civil society to help us take the CMU to the next level."* In response to the call for applications published on 28 October 2019, the European Commission received more than

130 applications from civil society, the business and finance community, as well as other non-public sector institutions. The Commission selected 28 highly-qualified candidates on the basis of their personal expertise in the area of financial markets, also taking into account geographical and gender balance in the Group's membership. The forum which will be chaired by Thomas Wieser, former Chair of the European Financial Committee. It will be comprised of three sub-groups focusing on the following areas: (1) The creation of an ecosystem enabling greater capital raising, with special focus on innovative SMEs; (2) The development of the European capital market architecture, with special focus on how new financial technologies can support this process; (3) Investment choice and accessibility to capital markets services to promote greater retail investors' participation. On 25 November, a [TwitterLive discussion](#) on CMU will be organised in the presence of the Director-General of DG FISMA and the Chair of the High-Level Forum for stakeholders to send their questions. The High-Level Forum will submit by the end of May a set of policy recommendations. More information including the full list of Members of the High-Level Forum on CMU can be found [here](#). (For more information: Vanessa Mock – Tel.: +32 229 56194; Guillaume Mercier – Tel.: +32 229 80564)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2019

Today, 18 November, in Stockholm Commissioner Vytenis **Andriukaitis** kicks off the series of events organised on the occasion of the [World Antibiotic Awareness Week](#) by delivering the opening speech at the 12th edition of the European Antibiotic Awareness Day. The event organised by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control ([ECDC](#)), with the support of the European Commission gathers stakeholders and professional organisations and will be marked by the presentation of a study on health workers' knowledge and attitudes about antibiotics. Ahead of the event, Commissioner **Andriukaitis** said: *"Since last year's edition we have made some progress on the fight against antimicrobial resistance with, in particular, the adoption, in December 2018, of the new EU legislation on veterinary medicines and medicated feed. But we must step up our efforts as antimicrobial resistance will remain, for decades to come, a global threat: it is estimated that consequences of inaction could lead to 10 million deaths by 2050"*. The event will be live streamed on [ECDC's YouTube channel](#) and [EAAD's Facebook page](#). Also see Commission's webpage on [antimicrobial resistance](#) and the most recent [blog](#) entry by the Commissioner. (For more information: Anca Paduraru – Tel.: +32 229 91269; Aikaterini Apostola – Tel.: +32 229 87624)

[Upcoming events](#) of the European Commission (ex-Top News)

[Eurostat](#) press releases