



Daily News 07 / 05 / 2021

Brussels, 7 May 2021

President von der Leyen participates in 30-strong EU-India leaders' meeting

Tomorrow, Saturday 8 May, the President of the European Commission, Ursula **von der Leyen**, will join the President of the European Council, the 27 EU Heads of State or Government, and the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, for an EU-India leaders' meeting by videoconference, hosted by the Prime Minister of Portugal, António Costa. High Representative/Vice-President Josep **Borrell** will also participate. Bringing together all members of the European Council and Prime Minister Modi for the first time demonstrates the strength of the EU-India Strategic Partnership, and the mutual willingness to advance our relations. The meeting takes place in the context of a dramatic coronavirus situation in India, to which the European Union has responded in full and swift solidarity. Through the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism, the Commission has coordinated and co-financed the delivery by 16 Member States of oxygen, ventilators, medicines and personal protective equipment in one of the largest ever responses of the Mechanism. The value of this is estimated at over €100 million. The European Commission has also made a financial contribution of €2.2 million to the World Health Organisation's to increase testing and patient care capacities in India. The leaders' meeting will provide an opportunity to convey the EU's continued solidarity and willingness to support India at this difficult time. Leaders are also expected to take steps to strengthen EU-India trade and investment links, to agree a partnership on connectivity, and to discuss the fight against climate change, technology cooperation, and foreign and security policy challenges. President **von der Leyen**, President Michel and Prime Minister Costa will hold a joint press conference following the conclusion of the meeting, foreseen at 16:00 CET (15:00 local), which will be streamed [live on EBS](#). More information on the meeting is available on the [website](#). (For more information: Eric Mamer – Tel.: +32 229 94073; Nabila Massrali – Tel.: +32 229 88093; Adam Kaznowski – Tel.: +32 229 89359)

Consumer protection: European consumer network recovers over €4 million for consumers during the pandemic

From March 2020 to March 2021, the [European network of consumer centres intervened to help consumers in 8,000 COVID-19-related cases](#) in which traders had failed to respond to consumers seeking redress. 68% of cases were successfully resolved, resulting in more than €4 million in reimbursements for consumers for services that were cancelled or rendered inaccessible, or goods that were not delivered. In the same period, the consumer network received 44% more requests for information than the previous year. 70,000 queries were directly related to the consequences of COVID-19. 93% of queries were about tourism, 45% about air passenger rights, 21% about cancelled accommodation and 17% about package holidays. Commissioner for Justice, Didier **Reynders** said: "*The COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the immense value of the European network of consumer centres: it helps consumers have their rights respected! It is also a source of information for consumers, national authorities and the Commission. Thanks to the network's input, millions of fraudulent listings could be removed from platforms.*" The European network of consumer centres (ECC-Net) was established in 2005 and is co-funded by the European Commission and Member States. It employs approximately 150 legal experts in 29 European countries to inform consumers about their rights in their native language, and to help them settle a dispute with a seller based in another EU country, as well as Iceland and Norway. The network's experts advise consumers on alternative dispute resolution or consumer organisations that may be able to provide further help. More information on the impact of the coronavirus on consumers is available [here](#) and updates about ECC-Net are available on Twitter [@ECC_web](#). (For more information contact: Christian Wigand - Tel.: +32 229 62253; Katarzyna Kolanko - Tel.: +32 229 63444; Jördis Ferrolí - Tel.: +32 229 92729)

Therapeutics Strategy - First rolling review of a new COVID-19 medicine

The European Medicines Agency has today started the [rolling review](#) of sotrovimab (VIR-7831), a monoclonal antibody developed for the treatment of COVID-19. The review follows hot on the heels of the [EU COVID-19 Therapeutics Strategy](#) presented yesterday and is a first step towards the Strategy's target of starting seven rolling reviews of COVID-19 therapeutics in 2021. The rolling review launched by EMA will assess sotrovimab's effectiveness in preventing hospitalisation and death; safety and quality. A rolling review is quicker than a regular evaluation as data is reviewed as it comes in. Should the European Medicines Agency recommend authorising the treatment at the end of its review, the European Commission will move swiftly to authorise it. The [EU Therapeutics Strategy](#) supports the development and availability of much needed COVID-19 therapeutics and covers the lifecycle of medicines: from research, development and manufacturing to procurement and deployment. It is part of the strong European Health Union, in which all EU countries prepare and respond together to health crises and ensure the availability of affordable and innovative medical supplies – including the therapeutics needed to treat COVID-19. More details on the EU Therapeutics Strategy are available in a [press release](#) and [factsheet](#). (For more information: Stefan De Keersmaecker – Tel.: +32 229 84680; Darragh Cassidy – Tel.: +32 229 83978)

Disclosure reporting: Commission launches call for public feedback on the environmental performance information that financial and non-financial undertakings should disclose

Today, the Commission published a call for [public feedback](#) on the content, methodology and presentation of information that large financial and non-financial undertakings should disclose concerning their environmentally sustainable economic activities. The Commission has recently adopted an [EU taxonomy](#) - a classification system, establishing a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities aimed at enabling the scale up of sustainable investment. The Taxonomy Regulation requires those undertakings to report how and to what extent their activities qualify as environmentally sustainable. In particular, non-financial undertakings will have to disclose the share of their turnover, capital, and operational expenditure resulting from environmentally sustainable economic activities. Financial undertakings will have to disclose to what extent they finance, or invest, in environmentally sustainable economic activities. [Article 8 of the Taxonomy Regulation](#) aims to increase transparency in the market, and prevent greenwashing by providing information to investors about the environmental (Taxonomy) alignment of economic activities of financial and non-financial undertakings. This disclosure will provide investors with uniform and transparent information about the environmental performance of the companies and assets they finance. It will also help investors and the public to understand the companies' trajectory towards environmental sustainability. Mairead **McGuinness**, Commissioner for Financial Services, Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union, said: "The EU's Taxonomy Regulation is central to the European Green Deal. The draft rules published today aim at further strengthening and streamlining the EU Taxonomy Regulation transparency rules concerning the environmental performance of companies. They will be instrumental in directing investment to green and sustainable projects. By contributing to this call, you can have your say on the development of these rules." The call, which takes the form of a draft Delegated Act, will be subject to public feedback for three consecutive weeks. The full text is available [online](#). For more information, please see the [Questions & Answers](#) document. (For more information: Daniel Ferrie – Tel.: 32 229 86500; Aikaterini Apostola – Tel.: +32 229 87624)

State aid: Commission approves €3.6 million Slovenian scheme to support pig breeders affected by coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved a €3.6 million Slovenian scheme to support pig breeders affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme was approved under the State Aid [Temporary Framework](#). Under the scheme, the public support will take the form of direct grants of up to €225,000 per beneficiary, to compensate them for their loss of income caused by the coronavirus outbreak. The aim of the scheme is to help the beneficiaries address their liquidity needs and continue their activities during and after the outbreak. The Commission found that the Slovenian scheme is in line with the conditions of the Temporary Framework. In particular, the aid (i) will not exceed €225,000 per beneficiary active in the primary agricultural sector; and (ii) will be granted until 30 June 2021. The Commission concluded that the measure is necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State, in line with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU and the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. On this basis, the Commission approved the scheme under EU State aid rules. More information on the Temporary Framework and other actions taken by the Commission to address the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic can be found [here](#). The non-confidential version of the decision will be made available under the case number SA.62686 in the [State aid register](#) on the Commission's [competition](#) website once any confidentiality issues have been resolved. (For more information: Arianna Podesta

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Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Ivanti by Charlesbank, together with Clearlake and TA Associates

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of Ivanti Software, Inc. ('Ivanti') by Charlesbank Capital Partners, LLP, ('Charlesbank') together with Clearlake Capital Group L.P. ('Clearlak') and TA Associates Management, L.P., ('TA Associates') all of the U.S. Ivanti is currently jointly controlled by Clearlake and TA Associates. Ivanti offers a software platform for companies' internal IT departments, which provides user management and industrial mobility software and solutions. Charlesbank is a private equity firm with portfolio companies active in business services, consumer, healthcare, industrial and technology infrastructure. Clearlake is a private investment firm with portfolio companies active in software and technology-enabled services, energy and industrials, and consumer. TA Associates is a private equity firm with portfolio companies active in selected industries, including business services, consumer, financial services, healthcare and technologies. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns since there are no horizontal nor vertical overlaps between the activities of Ivanti and Charlesbank. The operation was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information will be available on the Commission's competition website, in the [public case register](#) under the case number [M.10233](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta - Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni - Tel.: +32 229 90526)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Infinigate by Bridgepoint

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of sole control of Infinigate Holding AG ('Infinigate') of Switzerland by Bridgepoint Group Limited ('Bridgepoint') of the UK. Infinigate provides value-added wholesale distribution of IT security products. Bridgepoint is an international private equity group, investing in a broad range of sectors. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, given that the companies' combined and individual market shares remain minimal both for horizontal and vertical relationships in the markets that the parties are active. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition website](#), in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.10237](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta - Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni - Tel.: +32 229 90526)

Mergers: Commission clears creation of joint venture WELL by CSS, Visana, Zur Rose and medi24

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control over WELL Gesundheit AG ('WELL') by CSS Holding AG ('CSS'), belonging to CSS Group, Visana Beteiligungen AG ('Visana'), belonging to Visana Group, Zur Rose Group AG ('Zur Rose'), belonging to Zur Rose Group and medi24 AG ('medi24'), belonging to Allianz SE, all of Switzerland. WELL will be active in the development and operation of a digital health platform for the Swiss market. CSS and its subsidiaries provide health care insurance, accident insurance and supplementary and non-life insurance in Switzerland. Visana and its subsidiaries offer compulsory health care insurance, supplementary and non-life insurance and accident insurance in Switzerland. Zur Rose is active in mail-order pharmacies and as a marketplace for customary health and care products. medi24 is a telemedicine centre of expertise with the status of a Swiss medical office. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, because of its limited impact in the European Economic Area. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition website](#), in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.10197](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta - Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni - Tel.: +32 229 90526)

State aid: Commission approves €13 million Latvian scheme to support pig farmers affected by coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved a €13 million Latvian scheme to support pig farmers in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme was approved under the State Aid [Temporary Framework](#). The scheme consists of two sub-measures: (i) support in the form of direct grants to partially cover the losses caused by the decrease in demand of pork and live animals and the subsequent oversaturation of the market; and (ii) support for uncovered fixed costs. The aim of the

scheme is to help the beneficiaries continue their activities during and after the outbreak. The Commission found that the Latvian scheme is in line with the conditions of the Temporary Framework. In particular, with respect to the first measure, the aid will not exceed €225,000 per beneficiary, as provided by the Temporary Framework for companies active in the primary production of agricultural products. As regards the second measure, (i) the aid will not exceed €10 million per beneficiary, and (ii) it will be available to undertakings facing a decline in turnover during the eligible period of at least 30% compared to the same period of 2019. Finally, support under the overall scheme will be granted no later than 31 December 2021. The Commission concluded that the measure is necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State, in line with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU and the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. On this basis, the Commission approved the scheme under EU State aid rules. More information on the Temporary Framework and other actions taken by the Commission to address the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic can be found [here](#). The non-confidential version of the decision will be made available under the case number SA.62631 in the [State aid register](#) on the Commission's [competition](#) website once any confidentiality issues have been resolved. (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Health Union: High-level event on the mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

More than a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, the mental health impact has been overwhelming, with consequences felt across society. To highlight the relevance and complexity of addressing this challenge, and generally the importance attached to mental health, the European Commission is holding an online high-level event on 10 May, entitled "Mental health and the pandemic: living, caring, acting!". The event will be an opportunity to bring together speakers from different policy and practice areas, as well as to hear from those most affected, including young people, those with pre-existing mental health problems and their carers, and to share examples and promising practices with a view to ensuring that health systems are well equipped, now and in the future and to map the way forward. Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella **Kyriakides** said: "Mental health is a lifetime commitment for me. As we make strides to contain COVID-19 and build a strong European Health Union, it is paramount that we take stock of the mental health consequences of the pandemic, that we jointly reflect on what we know and to explore what we need to understand and do better. It's abundantly clear that mental health matters, now more than ever, and we stand side-by-side with EU countries, healthcare professionals and all those affected to take action to address one of today's most pressing challenges and to give voice to those most affected by this unprecedented health crisis." The Commission supports national health priorities that protect mental health, prevent mental illness and improve access to treatment. The event takes place during the European Mental Health Awareness Week and will be livestreamed. More details, including the agenda and registration links, are available [here](#). (For more information: Stefan De Keersmaecker – Tel.: [+32 229 84680](#); Darragh Cassidy – Tel.: [+32 229 83978](#))

Gestion des migrations: la Commissaire Johansson rencontre le Haut Commissaire des Nations unies pour les réfugiés, Filippo Grandi

Lundi après-midi, la Commissaire chargée des affaires intérieures, Ylva **Johansson**, rencontrera le Haut Commissaire des Nations unies pour les réfugiés, Filippo Grandi. Ils discuteront des moyens d'améliorer la protection des réfugiés et la gestion des migrations au niveau de l'UE et de parvenir à un juste équilibre entre la solidarité et le partage équitable des responsabilités entre les États membres, en se concentrant sur les progrès du [nouveau pacte sur la migration et l'asile](#) proposé par la Commission en septembre 2020. L'Agence des Nations unies pour les réfugiés est un partenaire essentiel pour la Commission en ce qui concerne la gestion des migrations, tant au sein de l'UE que dans le cadre de la coopération avec des pays partenaires extérieurs à l'UE. La Commissaire **Johansson** et le Haut Commissaire Grandi donneront une brève conférence de presse à 16.00 heures HEC lundi à l'issue de la réunion. Vous pourrez la suivre en direct sur [EbS](#) (Pour plus d'informations: Adalbert Jahnz — Tél. + 32 229 53156; Ciara Bottomley — Tél.: + 32 229 69971; Laura Bérard — Tél.: + 32 229 55721)

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