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Security Union: EU rules on removing terrorist content online enter into force

Landmark [EU rules](#) on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online entered into force today. Platforms will have to remove terrorist content referred by Member States' authorities within 1 hour. The rules will also help to counter the spread of extremist ideologies online - a vital part of preventing attacks and addressing radicalisation. The rules include strong safeguards to ensure the full respect of fundamental rights such as freedom of expression and information. The Regulation will also set transparency obligations for online platforms and for national authorities to report on the amount of terrorist content removed, the measures used to identify and remove content, the outcomes of complaints and appeals, as well as the number and type of penalties imposed on online platforms. Member States will be able to sanction non-compliance and to decide on the level of penalties, which will be proportionate to the nature of the infringement. The size of the platform will also be taken into consideration, so as to not impose unduly high penalties relative to the platform's size. Member States and online platforms offering services in the EU now have one year to adapt their processes. The Regulation applies as of 7 June 2022. Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, Margaritis **Schinias**, said: *"With these landmark new rules, we are cracking down on the proliferation of terrorist content online and making the EU's Security Union a reality. From now on, online platforms will have one hour to get terrorist content off the web, ensuring attacks like the one in Christchurch cannot be used to pollute screens and minds. This is a huge milestone in Europe's counter-terrorism and anti-radicalisation response."* Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva **Johansson**, said: *"Taking down terrorist content immediately is crucial to stop terrorists from exploiting the Internet to recruit and encourage attacks and to glorify their crimes. It is equally crucial to protect victims and their families from being confronted with crimes a second time online. The Regulation sets clear rules and responsibilities for Member States and for online platforms, protecting freedom of speech where warranted."* This [factsheet](#) provides further information on the new rules. The rules are an essential part of the Commission's [Counter-Terrorism Agenda](#). (For more information: Adalbert Jahnz - Tel.: +32 229 53156; Ciara Bottomley - Tel.: +32 229 69971; Laura Bérard - Tel.: +32 229 55721)

State aid: Commission invites interested parties to provide comments on proposed draft Climate, Energy and Environmental State aid Guidelines

The European Commission has launched today a [targeted public consultation](#) inviting all interested parties to comment on the proposed revision of the Guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy ('Energy and Environmental State aid guidelines' or 'EEAG'). To cater for the increased importance of climate protection, the revised guidelines will go under the name of Climate, Energy and Environmental State aid guidelines ('CEEAG'). The proposed Guidelines also include compatibility rules for flagship areas like clean mobility infrastructure and biodiversity, as well as resource efficiency to support the transition towards a circular economy. Interested parties can respond to the consultation for eight weeks, until 2 August 2021. The Commission has conducted an evaluation of the current Guidelines as part of the [State aid Fitness Check](#). The evaluation revealed that the current provisions of the Guidelines work well, they are overall fit for purpose and are an effective tool when it comes to supporting the achievement of the EU's environmental goals and climate targets, while limiting undue distortions in the Single Market. At the same time, the evaluation showed that some targeted adjustments, including simplifying and updating certain provisions and extending the scope of the Guidelines to cover new areas such as clean mobility and decarbonisation may be needed and that the current rules may need to be aligned with the Commission's strategic priorities, in particular those of [European Green Deal](#), and with other recent regulatory changes in the energy and environmental areas. In this context, the Commission is proposing a number of changes to the current rules. The draft Guidelines and all other information about the public consultation, including more details about the proposed changes, are available [online](#). The adoption of the new Guidelines is foreseen for the end of 2021. Executive Vice-President

Margrethe **Vestager**, in charge of competition policy, said: "Europe will need a considerable amount of sustainable investments. Although a significant share will come from the private sector, public support will play a role in ensuring that the green transition happens fast. So we want to make sure that our rules on State aid for climate, energy and environment are ready and fit for the green transition. The revised rules will enable Member States to fulfil the EU's ambitious environmental objectives of the European Green Deal, while keeping possible competition distortions to a minimum. We now invite all interested parties to share their views." A full press release is available [online](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344)

Non-Performing Loans (NPLs): Co-legislators agree on new rules in order to improve market transparency

The Commission welcomes the political agreement between the European Parliament and the Council on the proposal for [a Directive on credit servicers and credit purchasers](#). One of the key objectives of the Directive, adopted back in 2018, is to improve the access and transparency of secondary markets for Non-Performing Loans (NPLs). In particular, the Directive creates common reporting requirements for credit purchasers and an obligation to appoint a credit servicer for consumers and third-country investors. In this way, the new rules will create a Single Market for credit purchasers and credit servicers. This will foster competition, raise the average sale price of NPLs and significantly reduce servicing costs for the benefit of borrowers. In addition, the Directive amends the [Consumer Credit Directive and Mortgage Credit Directive](#). These amendments ensure that consumers will benefit from forbearance measures, are duly informed when the credit is transferred, and are able to keep the same contractual rights they had with the credit originators. Mairead **McGuinness**, Commissioner responsible for financial services, financial stability and Capital Markets Union said: "The new rules will strengthen and improve market transparency and consumer protection and help ensure that the current crisis and the potential rise of NPLs will not affect financial stability in the EU." The agreement concerns the specific rules related to the secondary markets of NPLs. Work is ongoing in the European Parliament on the remaining part of the March 2018 proposal. This part seeks to facilitate the recovery of collateral from businesses in order to increase their chances of obtaining credit. More information on non-performing loans (NPLs) is available [here](#). (For more information: Daniel Ferrie – Tel.: +32 229 86500; Aikaterini Apostola – Tel.: +32 229 87624)

EU Green Week 2021 achieves wide-scale mobilisation for healthier people and planet

This year's edition of the [EU Green Week](#), Europe's biggest annual environmental event, [officially opened](#) by President **von der Leyen**, closed last Friday with record involvement from across the EU. Dedicated to the EU ambition of a zero pollution environment, 600 partner events in 44 countries around Europe zoomed in on efforts to tackle pollution of air, soil and water. From workshops for kids, discussions on green recovery, hackathons, clean-up actions and citizen engagement activities, the Green Week highlighted the power of small individual actions alongside the structural changes that the [European Green Deal](#) aims to bring about. Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, Frans **Timmermans**, and Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginijus **Sinkevičius**, [closed](#) the event. In May, the European Commission presented the [EU Zero Pollution Action Plan](#) laying out this vision and proposing actions and targets how to get there. Reducing pollution requires clean choices for regional and urban mobility and energy, investments in buildings and infrastructure, as well as overall spatial planning and land use. The connections between health and environment were at the centre of this year's edition. On biodiversity and pollution, the message from this Green Week is very clear: reducing pollution from nutrients, pesticides and plastics will be a prerequisite to achieve our biodiversity goals. Other priorities highlighted were sustainable production and consumption as well as the matter of social justice when fighting for zero pollution as the most vulnerable groups are hit the hardest. The Commission and the European Committee of the Regions have also launched a [Stakeholder Platform](#) to help implement the Zero Pollution Action Plan since cities and regions have a key role to play in translating this vision into action on the ground. More information is in this [news item](#). (For more information: Vivian Loonela - Tel.: +32 229 66712; Tim McPhie – Tel.: +32 229 58602; Daniela Stoycheva – Tel.: +32 229 53664; Lynn Rietdorf – Tel.: +32 229 74959)

Égalité des genres : la Commission publie des recommandations pour combler l'écart entre les hommes et les femmes dans les secteurs culturel et créatif

La Commission a publié aujourd'hui le rapport intitulé « [Vers l'égalité des genres dans les secteurs culturel et créatif](#) », qui contient des recommandations et une vue d'ensemble de plus de 250 bonnes pratiques dans l'ensemble de l'UE pour améliorer les conditions de travail des femmes dans

ces secteurs. Le rapport, qui fait partie du [Plan de travail du Conseil en faveur de la culture pour la période 2019-2022](#), met l'accent sur les principaux défis adaptés à ces domaines, depuis les stéréotypes sexistes et le harcèlement sexuel jusqu'à l'écart de rémunération entre les hommes et les femmes et à l'accès aux postes de direction. Il a été coordonné par la Commission européenne et rédigé par des experts des États membres. Mariya **Gabriel**, commissaire à l'innovation, à la recherche, à la culture, à l'éducation et à la jeunesse, a déclaré: « *Les secteurs culturels et créatifs ont une influence sur les valeurs et les attitudes de notre société. Même si nous avons fait d'importants progrès pour améliorer la situation des femmes, il existe toujours des obstacles à leur réussite. Ce rapport arrive à un moment crucial, alors que nous rouvrons et repensons nos secteurs culturels et créatifs pour qu'ils deviennent plus inclusifs et durables après la pandémie de COVID-19. Ces recommandations nous aideront à lever ces obstacles et à faire en sorte que les artistes et les professionnels de la création, quel que soit leur genre, puissent bénéficier des mêmes opportunités dans toute l'UE.* » En plus de fournir une vue d'ensemble de la situation en ce qui concerne l'égalité des genres dans les secteurs de la culture et de la création, y compris en ce qui concerne l'impact de la pandémie de COVID-19, ce rapport contient des recommandations détaillées ainsi que des bonnes pratiques. Les recommandations suggèrent, par exemple, d'améliorer la collecte de données fiables et comparables sur les écarts entre les hommes et les femmes dans l'UE. En outre, l'utilisation d'un langage tenant compte de la dimension de genre, la mise en œuvre de l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes sur le lieu de travail ainsi que l'intégration de la dimension de genre dans l'élaboration des budgets et dans toutes les actions transversales sont essentielles pour combler l'écart entre les hommes et les femmes. La mise en œuvre de certaines recommandations spécifiques a déjà commencé dans le nouveau programme [Europe créative](#) (2021-2027). Le [rapport complet](#) et les [informations complémentaires](#) sont disponibles en ligne. (Pour plus d'informations : Sonya Gospodinova — Tél. : + 32 229 66953; Célia Dejond — Tél.: + 32 2 298 81 99)

Antitrust: Commission invites comments on inception impact assessment in the review of the rules on horizontal cooperation agreements

The European Commission is inviting comments on the inception impact assessment of the review of the [Horizontal Block Exemption Regulations](#), which exempt certain research and development (R&D) and specialisation agreements from EU rules that prohibit horizontal anticompetitive agreements between companies. After concluding the evaluation of the existing rules with the publication of a [Staff Working Document](#) on **6 May 2021**, the Commission has today published an inception impact assessment, which sets out the policy options for a revision of the Regulations. The policy options include proposals to encourage the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in R&D and specialisation agreements and the conclusion of pro-competitive R&D agreements in general. Other policy options aim to clarify the scope of the Specialisation Block Exemption Regulation. In addition, the Commission identified several areas for revision in the [guidelines on horizontal cooperation agreements](#). These areas address the need to provide additional guidance on data pooling and data sharing, and on horizontal cooperation agreements that pursue sustainability goals. Horizontal cooperation that is pro-competitive on balance is essential for the digital and green transition and the review aims to ensure that the EU's rules remain fit for purpose. Stakeholders can comment on the inception impact assessment on the [Commission's Better Regulation Portal](#) until 5 July 2021. Then, the Commission also plans to launch a public consultation inviting stakeholders to comment on the policy options and the revision of the Horizontal Block Exemption Regulations and guidelines on horizontal cooperation agreements in the summer of 2021. (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

State aid: Commission approves €58.8 million Belgian wage subsidy schemes to support employers in travel, hotel and events sectors affected by coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved three Belgian wage subsidy schemes to support employers in sectors particularly affected by the coronavirus outbreak. In particular, a €28.5 million scheme targets the travel sector, a €7.7 million scheme targets the hotel sector and a €22.6 million scheme targets the events sector. The three schemes were approved under the State aid [Temporary Framework](#). The aid will take the form of wage subsidies. It will cover part of the costs for those employees who had to work and ensure the performance of essential operations despite the absence of related income due to the restrictive measures necessary to limit the spread of the virus. The public support will help employers active in the three sectors to cover the social security contributions, allowing them to resume their activities and to avoid lay-offs. The Commission found that the Belgian schemes are in line with the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. In particular, (i) the measures will assist companies that are particularly affected by the coronavirus outbreak and are aimed at avoiding layoffs, (ii) the monthly wage subsidies will not exceed 80% of

the monthly gross salary of the benefitting personnel, and (iii) the aid will be granted before 31 December 2021. The Commission concluded that the measures are 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 measures 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 numbers SA.62562, SA.62650 and SA.62651 in the [State aid register](#) on the Commission's [competition](#) website. (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

STATEMENTS

World Food Safety Day: Statement by Commissioner Stella Kyriakides

On the occasion of World Food Safety Day today, 7 June 2021, Health and Food Safety Commissioner Stella **Kyriakides** made the following statement: *"Today we celebrate World Food Safety Day, a day that illustrates how important safe and nutritious food is for the whole world. The COVID-19 pandemic has not only highlighted the importance of strong health crisis preparedness and prevention mechanisms and supply chains that ensure continued movement of essential goods, but also the crucial importance of universally accessible and affordable safe food. Safe and nutritious food strengthens our immune systems and protects from illness. Safe food is key for food security. This past year has opened up for the opportunity to build robust food systems for the future. Systems that can contribute to support a green and sustainable recovery from COVID. In the EU we now have a long-term strategic vision for how to transform the way we produce, distribute and consume food - Europe's Farm to Fork Strategy. It is one of the key tools we have at our hands to deliver on our transformative ambition. Farm to Fork is a unique opportunity for change. And the safety of the food we produce and eat around the world is the starting point. We are proud that our high level of protection is often perceived as the golden standard. We will keep promoting these standards globally by working hand in hand with International organisations, such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Health Organisation. The safety of our food is more important than ever before and I am looking forward to the UN Food Systems Summit this September and to give my strongest support for transformative changes in the way the world produces and consumes food."* The full statement is available [online](#). (For more information: Stefan de Keersmaecker – Tel.: +32 229 84680; Stephan Meder – Tel.: +32 229 13917)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Johansson in Libya to discuss migration, border management and security

Today, Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva **Johansson**, is in Tripoli to meet with Prime Minister, Abdul Hamid Mohammad Dbeiba, Minister of Interior, Khaled al Tijani Mazen and State Minister of State for Migration Ijdid Maatouk Jadeed. Meeting her counterparts in the Government of National Unity, Commissioner **Johansson** will discuss a range of issues including the support to the political process in Libya, migration and border management, protection and humanitarian assistance as well as security. (For more information: Adalbert Jahnz - Tel.: + 32 229 53156; Ciara Bottomley - Tel.: +32 229 69971; Laura Bérard - Tel.: +32 229 55721)

La commissaire Johansson participe au Conseil « Justice et affaires intérieures »

Demain, le mardi 8 juin, Ylva **Johansson**, la commissaire chargée des affaires intérieures, participera à la réunion des ministres de l'intérieur de l'UE. Les ministres adopteront des rapports sur l'état d'avancement de deux propositions européennes en matière de la sécurité intérieure (Europol et résilience des entités critiques) ainsi que sur le [Nouveau Pacte sur la migration et l'asile](#) (y compris

les propositions relatives au règlement relatif à [l'Agence de l'UE pour l'asile](#) et les négociations récemment conclues sur la [proposition de directive « carte bleue »](#)). Les ministres procéderont ensuite à un échange de vues sur les perspectives en matière de sécurité intérieure en ce qui concerne l'intelligence artificielle et débattront des enseignements tirés de la lutte contre la criminalité au cours de la pandémie de COVID-19. Au cours d'un déjeuner de travail, la commissaire **Johansson** rendra compte aux ministres des derniers développements et progrès réalisés dans la gestion des migrations, de la sécurité et de la protection des frontières avec les pays partenaires concernés. Dans l'après-midi, la commissaire présentera aux ministres de l'intérieur la stratégie Schengen récemment adoptée, y compris une proposition législative visant à réviser le mécanisme d'évaluation et de suivi Schengen. Elle informera également les participants de l'interopérabilité, y compris de la mise en œuvre du système d'entrée/sortie et du système européen d'information et d'autorisation concernant les voyages, ainsi que de la mise en œuvre du règlement relatif au corps européen de garde-frontières et de garde-côtes de 2019. À la fin de la journée, la future présidente slovène présentera son programme de travail à partir du 1 juillet. Une conférence de presse avec la commissaire **Johansson** aura lieu vers 18h00 HEC, en direct sur [EBS](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Adalbert Jahnz - Tél.: + 32 229 53156; Ciara Bottomley - Tél.: +32 229 69971; Laura Béard - Tél.: +32 229 55721)

Competition: EU and Japan reinforce cooperation on competition policy at second EU-Japan Competition Week

Officials and experts from the EU and Japan will meet online on 7 and 8 June to exchange best practices in competition policy and enforcement during the second EU-Japan Competition Week. The Competition Week will start with a closed-door meeting on competition and digital markets, during which representatives from the Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC) and the European Commission will discuss the evolving regulatory landscape in the EU and Japan. During the first session of the second day of closed-door meetings, officials from both Institutions will gather to reflect on how to integrate economic analysis into competition enforcement and on the role of economists in competition agencies. The second session envisaged for 8 June will focus on how to apply economic analysis and economic tools to competition cases in digital markets, with both sides sharing their practical experiences in the investigation of digital markets. The annual EU-Japan Competition Week is part of the [Competition Cooperation project](#), a 5-year EU-funded programme offering technical cooperation to competition authorities in Asia. The objective is to exchange experiences and strengthen convergence in competition policy, to the benefit of citizens and businesses in both the EU and Asia. More information about the European Commission's bilateral dialogue with Japan in the field of competition policy is available on the Commission's [website](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

[Tentative agendas](#) for forthcoming Commission meetings

Note that these items can be subject to changes.

[Eurostat](#) press releases

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