



## Daily News 14 / 06 / 2021

Brussels, 14 June 2021

### Transatlantic relations take centre stage in Brussels with EU-Canada and EU-US summits

On Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 June, the EU will play host to summits with its two transatlantic partners: [Canada](#) and the [United States](#). First, in the evening of 14 June, Commission President Ursula **von der Leyen** and Council President Charles Michel, accompanied by High Representative/Vice-President Josep **Borrell** will meet with the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau. The leaders are expected to reaffirm their shared commitment to the [EU-Canada strategic partnership](#). They will discuss the response to the coronavirus pandemic, in particular ensuring global access to vaccines, cooperation towards a sustainable recovery, and efforts to reinforce the World Health Organization including through strengthening pandemic preparedness. The leaders will also discuss cooperation on climate action ahead of the UN COP26 on climate, COP15 on biodiversity and the UN Ocean Conference. Trade, technology and innovation will also be on the agenda, with particular emphasis on reaping the full benefits of the [EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement \(CETA\)](#), reform of the World Trade Organization, and cooperation in the digital transition, research, space and critical raw materials. The leaders will also discuss key foreign policy issues. On Tuesday 15 June at 9:30 (CEST), President **von der Leyen**, President Michel and Prime Minister Trudeau will hold a joint press conference, which will be broadcast [live on EbS](#). Later that day, on 15 June, President **von der Leyen** and President Michel, joined by Executive Vice-Presidents Margrethe **Vestager** and Valdis **Dombrovskis** and High Representative/Vice-President **Borrell**, will receive the President of the United States, Joe Biden for the first EU-US summit under the new leaderships. In light of the European Commission and High Representative's [proposal for a new EU-US agenda for global change](#), the leaders are expected to discuss a wide range of issues including the coronavirus response and sustainable recovery and climate action. They will also review [EU-US trade and investment relations](#), both on the bilateral level and multilaterally within the World Trade Organization, as well as cooperation on technology and the digital transition. Leaders will also address a range of foreign and security policy challenges and opportunities, including relations with China and Russia, and the need to promote democracy and human rights worldwide. Executive Vice-President **Dombrovskis** will meet in the context of the summit with the US Trade Representative, Katherine Tai, to further deepen transatlantic trade ties and make progress on key files of common interest. The two will hold a press point at c. 15:00 (CEST) on Tuesday 15, [live on EbS](#). More information is available in dedicated factsheets on [EU-Canada](#) and [EU-US relations](#), and on the websites of the [EU Delegation to Canada](#) and of the [EU Delegation to the United States](#). (For more information: Eric Mamer – Tel.: +32 229 94073; Peter Stano – Tel.: +32 229 54553; Adam Kaznowski – Tel.: +32 229 89359)

### Joint Statement by EU institutions: EU clears way for the EU Digital COVID Certificate

Today, the Presidents of the three EU institutions, the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission attended the official signing ceremony for the Regulation on the EU Digital COVID Certificate, marking the end of the legislative process. On this occasion Presidents David Sassoli and Ursula **von der Leyen** and Prime Minister António Costa said: *"The EU Digital COVID Certificate is a symbol of what Europe stands for. Of a Europe that does not falter when put to the test. A Europe that unites and grows when faced with challenges. Our Union showed again that we work best when we work together. The EU Digital COVID Certificate Regulation was agreed between our institutions in the record time of 62 days. While we worked through the legislative process, we also built the technical backbone of the system, the EU gateway, which is live since 1 June. We can be proud of this great achievement. The Europe that we all know and that we all want back is a Europe without barriers. The EU Certificate will again enable citizens to enjoy this most tangible and cherished of EU rights – the right to free movement. Signed into law today, it will enable us to travel more safely this summer. Today we reaffirm together that an open Europe prevails."* The full statement is available [online](#) and you can watch the signing ceremony on [EbS](#). More on EU Digital COVID Certificate is available on the [website](#), [factsheet](#) and [Questions and](#)

[Answers \(update\)](#). (For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Christian Wigand - Tel.: +32 229 62253; Katarzyna Kolanko - Tel.: +32 229 63444; Charles Manoury – Tel.: +32 229-13391)

## **Commission and industry invest €22 billion in new European Partnerships to deliver solutions to major societal challenges**

Today, the Commission launched 11 new European Partnerships together with industry, to boost investments in research and innovation and to overcome major climate and sustainability challenges, towards making Europe the first climate neutral economy and delivering on the [European Green Deal](#). In line with the goals of the 'twin' green and digital transition, the Partnerships will also deliver on the EU's digital ambitions for the next decade, [Europe's Digital Decade](#). They will receive over €8 billion from [Horizon Europe](#), the new EU research and innovation programme for 2021-2027. The total commitments, including those from private partners and from Member States, amount to around €22 billion. This critical mass of funding allows the Partnerships to pursue innovative solutions on a large scale, for example to tackle emissions from energy-intensive industries and hard-to-decarbonise sectors, such as shipping and steel-making, as well as to develop and deploy high-performance batteries, sustainable fuels, artificial intelligence tools, data technologies, robotics, and more. Pooling in efforts, resources and investments jointly and on a large scale under the Partnerships will also generate long-term positive impacts, boost European competitiveness and technological sovereignty and create jobs and growth. The Commission adopted today Memoranda of Understanding to launch the Partnerships, which will start their operations immediately. A signature ceremony for the Memoranda of Understanding will take place at the [European Research and Innovation Days](#) on 23 June. More information is available in this [press release](#). (For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Marietta Grammenou – Tel.: +32 229 83583)

## **Politique de cohésion de l'UE: plus de 453 million d'euros pour la France et la Slovaquie pour faire face à l'impact social et économique de la crise du coronavirus**

La Commission a approuvé la modification de cinq programmes opérationnels (POs) du [Fonds Européen de Développement Régional](#) (FEDER) et du [Fonds Social Européen](#) (FSE) pour la France et la Slovaquie dans le cadre de [REACT-EU](#), les augmentant d'un total de plus de 453 million d'euros. Ces amendements aux POs aideront à combattre les effets de la pandémie de coronavirus, à poser les bases d'une reprise verte et numérique et à soutenir les plus vulnérables de notre société. En France, la modification des PO 'Bourgogne', 'Franche-Comté et Massif du Jura' et 'Nord-Pas de Calais' apportera au total 233,2 millions d'euros pour le fonds de roulement et les investissements dans les petites et moyennes entreprises (PME), la formation des demandeurs d'emploi, le renforcement de la santé secteur et l'économie numérique. En Guadeloupe, 134,7 million d'euros supplémentaires permettront à la région de rénover et d'équiper les hôpitaux et les établissements de santé, d'accorder des prêts à taux zéro aux PME et de construire la première école d'ingénieurs des Caraïbes classée 'Pôle d'Excellence'. Le financement aidera également à établir un Internet sans fil au niveau territorial sur tout l'archipel, à étendre des infrastructures pour la gestion de l'eau et des déchets, ainsi qu'à développer des infrastructures portuaires. En Slovaquie, l'amendement du PO 'Administration publique efficace' ajoutera 85,3 millions d'euros supplémentaires pour indemniser 62 000 médecins, infirmières et autres travailleurs de première ligne pour leur surcroît de travail pendant la pandémie. REACT-EU fait partie de [NextGenerationEU](#) et fournit 50,6 milliards d'euros de financement supplémentaire (en prix courants) au cours de 2021 et 2022 aux programmes de la politique de cohésion. Les mesures concernent le soutien à la résilience du marché du travail, à l'emploi, aux PME et aux familles à faible revenu, ainsi que la mise en place de bases pérennes pour les transitions verte et numérique et une reprise socio-économique durable. (Pour plus d'informations : Vivian Loonela - Tél.: +32 229 66712; Marta Wiczorek - Tél.: +32 229 58197; Veronica Favalli - Tél.: +32 229 87269; Flora Matthaes - Tél.: +32 229 83951)

## **Free movement: the Commission welcomes the approval by the Council of the updated Recommendation on free movement in the EU**

The Commission welcomes today's approval by the Council of the EU of the update to the Recommendation on the coordination of free movement restrictions in the EU. The Commission [proposed this update on 31 May](#), in response to the [call by EU leaders](#) to revise the Recommendation by mid-June. On this occasion Commissioner for Justice, Didier **Reynders** said: "We can be confident now: with this update and with the EU Digital COVID Certificate, free movement of Europeans will be safeguarded. With the start of the summer, citizens will see their travel facilitated – with only limited and proportionate, if any, travel restrictions." Among others, Member States agreed that fully

vaccinated and recovered citizens should be exempted from travel related restrictions. Member States also agreed on clarified and simplified travel requirements: travellers from orange areas could only be required to show a pre-departure test; while travellers from red areas could be required to undergo quarantine, unless they have a negative pre-departure test. The Recommendation clarifies the rules for children under twelve years, ensuring unity of families when traveling and prescribes a harmonised validity period of tests: 72h for PCR and 48h for RAT tests. Thresholds of the ECDC map have now been adapted in view of the epidemiological situation and progress on vaccination. The Recommendation also allows Member States, as part of an "emergency brake" to re-introduce travel measures, in case situation deteriorates rapidly. The updated Questions and Answers will be available [online](#) later today. (For more information: Christian Wigand - Tel.: +32 229 62253; Katarzyna Kolanko - Tel.: +32 229 63444; Jördis Ferroli)

## **Agriculture : la Commission approuve une nouvelle indication géographique de Hongrie**

La Commission européenne a approuvé la demande d'inscription du « [Balatoni hal](#) » de Hongrie dans le registre des indications géographiques protégées (IGP). Le « Balatoni hal » désigne exclusivement des espèces de carpe ou de sandre vivant dans le lac Balaton, à l'ouest de la Hongrie. La région possède un climat continental humide qui constitue un facteur important pour la pisciculture. En raison de la bonne qualité de l'eau et de l'alimentation naturelle à base de poissons, la chair du sandre « Balatoni hal » est de couleur blanche et sans arrière-goût. Le « Balatoni hal » est l'un des piliers de la gastronomie locale. Il est un ingrédient indispensable de la « soupe de poisson du Balaton » qui se cuisine ici et dont la méthode de préparation est unique et propre au bassin versant. Cette nouvelle appellation va rejoindre 1 762 produits alimentaires déjà protégés. La liste est disponible dans la base de données [eAmbrosia](#). Pour plus d'informations, voir aussi les pages sur la [politique de qualité](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Miriam Garcia Ferrer – Tél.: +32 229 99075; Thérèse Lerebours – Tél.: +32 229 63303)

## **State aid: 2020 Scoreboard shows increase in Member State aid expenditure in 2019, focusing on support to objectives of common European interest**

The [2020 State Aid Scoreboard](#), published today by the European Commission, provides a comprehensive overview of EU State aid expenditure in 2019 for the 27 EU Member States and the UK. According to the expenditure reports provided by Member States for 2019, State aid spending increased in 2019, both in absolute amounts and relative to GDP. In 2019, Member States spent €134.6 billion, i.e. 0.81% of GDP, on State aid at EU level. This figure does not include aid to services of general economic interest, railways, agriculture and fisheries and represents an increase of about 3.6% (€130 billion) compared to 2018 expenditure. Member States continued to make extensive use of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) in 2019: 1,473 new GBER measures were implemented, without advance notification to the Commission, corresponding to 95.5% of all new State aid measures for which expenditure was reported for the first time. The amount of aid granted under the GBER increased by 7.8% in 2019. The 2020 Scoreboard highlights the positive impact of State aid policy in steering public support towards objectives of common European interest, as about 51% of total spending (€69.1 billion) was granted in support of environmental projects and energy savings, 10% (€13.9 billion) to research, development and innovation, and 8.5% (€11.5 billion) to regional development. State aid measures currently in force are significantly heterogeneous in terms of expenditure. In total, 23 schemes have reported expenditure above €1 billion in 2019, while 169 measures are above €100 million. These figures relate to 2019 aid expenditures and therefore have not been affected by the aid that Member States have granted in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. The 2020 expenditure figures will be reported by Member States in the course of this year and published by the Commission in early 2021. In the meantime, the Commission has conducted a survey with Member States covering COVID-related aid expenditure until December 2020. The results of this survey can be found [here](#). State aid expenditure data gathered by the Commission's Directorate-General for Competition is available on its [data repository webpage](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

## **State aid: Commission approves €200 million extension of Spanish scheme to support access to high-speed broadband services in underserved areas with funds from the Recovery and Resilience Fund (RRF)**

The European Commission has approved, under EU State aid rules, a €200 million extension of an existing Spanish scheme to support the roll out of support Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband services in underserved areas. The existing scheme was initially approved by the Commission in

2008 ([SA.25137](#)), last prolonged in [December 2019](#) ([SA.53925](#)) and due to expire at the end of 2022. The scheme supports the implementation of broadband deployment projects covering the 8% of Spanish population living in areas where still less than 100 megabits per second (Mbps) download speed is provided, with the objective of offering 300 Mbps up- and download speeds, upgradeable to 1 gigabits per second (Gbps) up- and download speeds. This measure will contribute to ensuring more than 100 Mbps download speed coverage for 100% of the Spanish population by 2025. Spain notified the following modification to the existing scheme: (i) a prolongation until 31 December 2024; and (ii) an increase in the total budget of the measure by €200 million (from €400 million to €600 million). The new budget will be made available through the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), provided that the Spanish recovery and resilience plan is assessed positively by the Commission and approved by the Council. The RRF funds would be provided in addition to the existing support from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and national funds. More generally, all investments and reforms entailing State aid contained in the national recovery plans presented in the context of the RRF must be notified to the Commission for prior approval, unless covered by one of the State aid block-exemption rules, in particular the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER). The Commission will assess such measures as a matter of priority and has provided guidance and support to Member States in the preparatory phases of the national plans, to facilitate the rapid deployment of the RRF. At the same time, the Commission makes sure in its decision that the applicable State aid rules are complied with, in order to preserve the level playing field in the Single Market and ensure that the RRF funds are used in a way that minimises competition distortions and do not crowd out private investment. The non-confidential version of the decision will be made available under the case number SA.62696 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; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

### **State aid: Commission approves prolongation of market conform Italian guarantee scheme for non-performing loans**

The European Commission has approved, under EU State aid rules, the fourth prolongation of the market conform Italian guarantee scheme to facilitate the securitisation of non-performing loans (Fondo di Garanzia sulla Cartolarizzazione delle Sofferenze - GACS). The scheme was [initially approved](#) in February 2016 and last [prolonged](#) in May 2019. Under the scheme, Italian banks meeting certain conditions will continue to be able to request a State guarantee on the lower-risk senior notes issued by private securitisation vehicles that help them to finance the sale of their non-performing loan portfolios. The more risky funding tranches of the securitisation vehicles are to be sold to private investors and will not be guaranteed by the State. By assisting banks to securitise and move non-performing loans off their balance sheet, the scheme is an important component of Italy's strategy to tackle banks' asset quality problems and has already made a significant contribution. Since its entry into force until end-September 2020, the scheme has been accessed 27 times, removing €74 billion (gross book value) of non-performing loans from the Italian banking system, which corresponds to 53% of the total reduction of non-performing loans in Italy during that period. The Commission's assessment showed that, under the scheme as notified by Italy, the State guarantees on the senior notes will continue to be remunerated at market terms according to the risk taken, i.e. in a manner acceptable for a private operator under market conditions. On this basis, the Commission was able to maintain its conclusion that the measure is free of State aid within the meaning of EU State aid rules. Today's authorisation is granted until 14 June 2022. More information will be available on the Commission's [competition](#) website in the public [case register](#) under the case number SA.62880 once any confidentiality issues have been resolved. (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344)

### **State aid: Commission approves €385 million Dutch scheme to support organisers of events affected by coronavirus outbreak**

The European Commission has approved a €385 million Dutch scheme to support organisers of events in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. The aim of the scheme is to compensate them for the costs of organising events, scheduled to take place between 1 July 2021 and 31 December 2021, should they be cancelled as a result of restrictive measures implemented by the Dutch government to limit the spread of the virus. The measure is open to event organisers of all sizes active in the Netherlands. The compensation is limited to actual net costs of the cancelled events, that is the costs minus any event-related revenue and any amount obtained from insurance, litigation, arbitration or any other source. The aid will take the form of direct grants for up to 80% of the eligible costs and of repayable advance, beyond that and up to 100% of the eligible costs. The Commission found that

the scheme is in line with [Article 107\(2\)\(b\)](#) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). In particular, (i) the scheme will compensate damages that are directly linked to the coronavirus outbreak and to the restrictive measures implemented by the Dutch government, and (ii) the envisaged compensation will not exceed what is necessary to make good the damage. The Commission therefore concluded that the scheme is in line with EU State aid rules. More information on the 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.62743 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; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)*

### **State aid: Commission approves €30 million Greek guarantee scheme to support SMEs active in the construction sector affected by coronavirus outbreak**

The European Commission has approved a €30 million Greek scheme to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) active in the construction sector that have been particularly 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 guarantees on loans and direct grants. The scheme will be implemented by the 'COVID-19 Business Guarantee HDB' – TMEDE Fund, a new Fund of the Hellenic Development Bank (HDB), established in cooperation with the Engineers and Public Work Contractors Fund (TMEDE). The measure will partially guarantee eligible working capital loans granted by financial intermediaries. In addition, it will enable the subsidisation of loan guarantee premiums, in the form of direct grants. The Commission found that the scheme is in line with the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. In particular, with respect to the guarantees on loans, (i) the aid will cover guarantees on operating loans with a limited maturity and size; (ii) the annual interest rates of the loans respect the minimum levels foreseen by the Temporary Framework; and (iii) the measure limits the risk taken by the State to a maximum of 80%. With respect to the direct grants, the aid will not exceed €1.8 million per company. Support under the 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 measure 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.62835 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; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)*

### **State aid: Commission approves Estonian €10.6 million scheme to support companies active in cultural and sport sectors in context of coronavirus outbreak**

The European Commission has approved a €10.6 million Estonian scheme to support companies active in the cultural and sport sectors affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme was approved under the State aid [Temporary Framework](#). Under the scheme, the aid will take the form of direct grants to cover the costs incurred by the beneficiaries for restructuring their business, in order to operate under the restrictive and precautionary measures that the Estonian government had to implement in order to limit the spread of the virus. Eligible for aid are only restructuring costs directly related to the prevention of the coronavirus outbreak and/or to the operation of the beneficiary's activities under the restrictions imposed by the government. The Commission found that the Estonian scheme is in line with the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. In particular, the aid (i) will not exceed €1.8 million per company, and (ii) will be granted no later than 31 December 2021. The Commission concluded that the scheme 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.63164 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; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)*

## **State aid: Commission approves €1.5 million Estonian scheme to support operators of experience centres and operators of buildings used for events affected by the coronavirus outbreak**

The European Commission has approved a €1.5 million Estonian scheme to support operators of experience centres and operators of buildings used for conferences, theatres, concerts and other similar events, in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. The measure was approved under the State aid [Temporary Framework](#). The aid will take the form of direct grants, with a maximum amount of €150,000 per beneficiary. The aim of the scheme is to compensate these operators for the damage suffered due to the suspension and/or disruption of their activities because of the restrictive measures that the Estonian government had to implement in order to limit the spread of the virus. The Commission found that the Estonian measure is in line with the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. In particular, the aid (i) will not exceed €1.8 million per company and (ii) 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 measure 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.63122 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; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)*

## **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of joint control of Yanmar Credit by SMFL and Yanmar**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control of Yanmar Credit Service Co., Ltd. ('Yanmar Credit') by Sumitomo Mitsui Finance and Leasing Co., Ltd. ('SMFL') and Yanmar Holdings Co., Ltd. ('Yanmar'), all of Japan. Yanmar Credit offers financing services in Japan. SMFL offers a variety of financing services to its customers, including leasing services, rental services and instalment sales services. Yanmar is active in the sale of engines used in a wide variety of applications, energy systems and generators, as well as agricultural machinery, compact construction equipment, components and boats. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, given that Yanmar Credit does not carry out any activities, nor does it have any assets in the European Economic Area ('EEA'). Therefore, the proposed acquisition does not give rise to any horizontal overlaps or vertical relations between the companies in the EEA. 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.10275](#). *(For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)*

## **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of joint control of PSA Breakbulk and Coil Terminal by PSA and Felbermayr**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control over PSA Breakbulk NV and Coil Terminal NV, both of Belgium, by PSA International Pte Ltd ('PSA') of Singapore and Felbermayr Holding GmbH ('Felbermayr') of Austria. PSA Breakbulk and Coil Terminal are general cargo handlers in the port of Antwerp, Belgium, with a focus on steel products. PSA is a global operator of shipping terminals mainly active in the provision of stevedoring services at ports, with a particular focus on terminal services for container liner ships. Felbermayr is a diversified holding company active in transport and lifting technology, building and construction, and maritime logistics services mainly within the European Economic Area. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns given its limited impact on the market. 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.10203](#). *(For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)*

## **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Kotkamills by Mayr-Melnhof**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of Kotkamills of Finland by Mayr-Melnhof ('MM Group') of Austria. Kotkamills manufactures virgin-fibre

cartonboard. MM Group is mainly active as a producer of both cartonboard and packaging products, in particular folding boxes. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, because the overlaps between the activities of the companies are limited and a number of strong players would remain in the market after the merger. The transaction was examined under the normal merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.10122](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

## STATEMENTS

### Statement by Commissioner Stella Kyriakides on World Blood Donor Day

On the occasion of World Blood Donor Day today, 14 June 2021, Stella **Kyriakides**, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, made the following statement: *"Today, on World Blood Donor Day, I want to applaud all those who save lives by regularly giving a little of their time, and a little of themselves, to help others. Modern science and medicine have advanced in ways we could not have imagined just decades ago, and yet, the success of many of the sophisticated treatments we take for granted today still depend on blood transfusions. Some 25 million blood transfusions are carried out across the EU in a wide range of life-saving procedures every year. Blood plasma also plays a vital role with 8 million litres donated to tackle immune deficiency and make life-saving medicines for conditions such as haemophilia, a rare condition that affects the blood's ability to clot. This year the donor community has even grown, as many who have recovered from COVID-19 have become plasma donors themselves, facilitating efforts across the EU, and around the world, to research the potential use of convalescent plasma to help patients fight the disease. Over 130,000 COVID-19 convalescent plasma donations have been registered on an EU platform and, with the Emergency Support Instrument funding, new or expanded plasma collection centres are now working across the EU. So a heartfelt thanks goes out to those who have donated for many years and also to those who have joined this special community that quietly performs its selfless acts of solidarity each and every day. And on this particular day, my message remains: become a donor, you'll save lives."* The full statement is available [online](#). (For more information: Stefan de Keersmaecker – Tel.: +32 229 84680; Darragh Cassidy – Tel.: +32 229 83978)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### European Development Days 2021: driving the global debate on green action ahead of Kunming and Glasgow Summits

The leading global forum on development cooperation, the [European Development Days](#) (EDD), will begin tomorrow to reflect on the road to the UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP15) in Kunming in October and the Glasgow COP26 in November 2021. More than 8,400 registered participants, over 1,000 organisations from over 160 countries will debate over the next two days, on 15 and 16 June, two main topics: a green economy for people and nature, and protecting biodiversity and people. The forum includes the participation of high-level speakers from the European Union, Ursula **von der Leyen**, European Commission President; Jutta **Urpilainen**, Commissioner for International Partnerships; and Virginijus **Sinkevičius**, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries; as well as the United Nations with Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General; Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director; HRH Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, President of Fauna and Flora International; Maimunah Mohd Sharif, UN-Habitat Executive Director. This year's edition will place a special emphasis on the views of [young leaders](#) with expertise and active contributions to find solutions for climate action. With an EDD virtual Global Village presenting innovative projects and ground-breaking reports from 150 organisations all around the world and special events on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, these two days are a unique opportunity to discuss and shape a fairer and greener future. The [EDD's website](#) and [programme](#) are available online as well as a full [press release](#). (For more information: Ana Pisonero - Tel.: +32 229 54320; - Tel.: Gesine Knolle +32 229 54323)

## Commissioner Hahn at 'Focus on Europe' investor seminar

The European Commission, together with the European Investment Bank and the European Stability Mechanism, is organising the 'Focus on Europe' virtual Capital Markets Seminar today and tomorrow, 14 and 15 June. The event will discuss the role of the three institutions in Europe's green, digital and resilient recovery, both in supporting investment and as debt issuers. The seminar will look at the dynamics in the EU economy, give updates on funding and credit, the buy-side perspective on EU supranational issuers and the status and implications of the European Green Deal, including sustainable finance regulations. Commissioner for Budget and Administration, Johannes **Hahn**, opened the event together with the President of the European Investment Bank, Werner Hoyer and the Managing Director of the European Stability Mechanism, Klaus Regling. A recording and photo material is available on [EbS](#). [Other speakers](#) include representatives from the three institutions and wider capital markets actors. The full programme is available [online](#). (For more information: Balazs Ujvari - Tel.: +32 229 54578; Claire Joawn - Tel.: +32 229 56859)

## Commissioner Kyriakides to participate in EPSCO Health Council

Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella **Kyriakides**, will participate in the meeting of Health Ministers on Tuesday 15 June, in Luxembourg. The ministers will discuss a broad [range of issues](#), including the state of play on the management of the pandemic, and three legislative proposals to improve health crisis management in the Union, proposed by the Commission on 11 November 2020 as part of a strong [European Health Union](#). In particular, the Council is expected to adopt its position on strengthening the mandate of the European Medicines Agency. Ministers will also discuss the progress made on the proposals to strengthen the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and to set up stronger coordination for cross-border health threats. Further items on the agenda include access to medicines and medical devices for a stronger and more resilient EU, progress towards adoption of the Commission proposal on Health Technology Assessment, and Global health initiatives. Both the morning and the afternoon sessions will be livestreamed on the [Council website](#). The meeting will be followed by a press conference with Commissioner **Kyriakides**, which will be broadcast [on EbS](#). (For more information: Stefan de Keersmaecker – Tel.: +32 229 84680; Darragh Cassidy – Tel.: +32 229 83978)

## Espace: Le commissaire Breton échangera avec les PME et les start-ups sur l'initiative pour une connectivité sécurisée

Le commissaire Thierry **Breton**, chargé du marché intérieur, participe à un atelier sur l'initiative de connectivité sécurisée et les possibilités offertes pour l'écosystème New Space. L'atelier vise à faire connaître les éléments de l'initiative en vue de renforcer la participation des PME et des start-ups au développement de ce projet. Ils constituent des acteurs essentiels de la chaîne de valeur et une source potentielle de technologies innovantes et de rupture. Comme annoncé dans la [stratégie de cybersécurité](#) de l'UE adoptée le 16 décembre 2020, la Commission étudie les différentes manières de renforcer l'autonomie stratégique et la résilience de l'Union et des États membres en garantissant un chiffrage fiable et sûr intégrant des technologies de communication quantiques et des capacités de connectivité européennes rentables. L'initiative pour une connectivité sécurisée est un projet phare qui fournira aux citoyens européens des services essentiels, tels qu'une connectivité fiable, sûre et rentable pour les communications gouvernementales et commerciales, ainsi que la disponibilité universelle du haut débit dans toute l'Europe. Cela permettra aux Européens de rester connectés, quelle que soit la situation. Au cours de cet événement interactif, l'état d'avancement de l'initiative sera présenté pour la première fois. Il offre également la possibilité de mettre en relation les participants. À 15h00 (HAEC), le commissaire **Breton** prononcera un discours, qui pourra être suivi [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations : Sonya Gospodinova – Tél. + 32 229 66953; Célia Dejond – Tél.: + 32 229 88199)

[Liste des points prévus](#) à l'ordre du jour des prochaines réunions de la Commission

*Veillez noter que ces informations sont données sous réserve de modifications.*

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