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NextGenerationEU: la Commission approuve le plan pour la reprise et la résilience de la Tchéquie

La Commission européenne a adopté une évaluation positive du plan pour la reprise et la résilience de la [Tchéquie](#). Il s'agit d'une étape importante vers le versement par l'UE d'un montant de 7 milliards d'euros sous forme de subventions au titre de la facilité pour la reprise et la résilience (FRR). Ce financement soutiendra la mise en œuvre des mesures essentielles d'investissement et de réforme décrites dans les plans pour la reprise et la résilience de ce pays. La Commission a évalué ce plan au regard des critères énoncés dans le règlement FRR. Le Conseil disposera à présent, en principe, de quatre semaines pour adopter les propositions de la Commission. NextGenerationEU, dont la FRR est l'instrument clé, apportera jusqu'à 800 milliards d'euros (en prix courants) pour soutenir les investissements et les réformes dans l'ensemble de l'UE. *(Pour plus d'informations: Veerle Nuyts – Tél.: +32 229 96302; Enda McNamara – Tél.: +32 229 64976)*

Digital sovereignty: Commission kick-starts alliances for Semiconductors and industrial cloud technologies

The European Commission kick-starts today two new Industrial Alliances: the Alliance for Processors and Semiconductor technologies, and the European Alliance for Industrial Data, Edge and Cloud. The two new alliances will advance the next generation of microchips and industrial cloud/edge computing technologies and provide the EU with the capabilities needed to strengthen its critical digital infrastructures, products and services. The alliances will bring together businesses, Member State representatives, academia, users, as well as research and technology organisations. Margrethe **Vestager**, Executive Vice-President for a Europe fit for the Digital Age, said: *"Cloud and edge technologies present a tremendous economic potential for citizens, businesses and public administrations, for example in terms of increased competitiveness and meeting industry-specific needs. Microchips are at the heart of every device we use nowadays. From our mobile phones to our passports, these small components bring a wealth of opportunities for technological advancements. Supporting innovation in these critical sectors is therefore crucial and can help Europe leap ahead together with like-minded partners."* Commissioner for Internal Market Thierry **Breton** said: *"Europe has all it takes to lead the technological race. The two alliances will devise ambitious technological roadmaps to develop and deploy in Europe the next generation of data processing technologies from cloud to edge and cutting-edge semiconductors. The alliance on cloud and edge aims at developing energy-efficient and highly secured European industrial clouds, which are not subject to control or access by third country authorities. The alliance on semiconductors will rebalance global semiconductor supply chains by ensuring that we have the capacity to design and produce, in Europe, the most advanced chips towards 2nm and below."* The European Alliance for Industrial Processors and Semiconductor Technologies builds on a commitment from Member States to work together to reinforce Europe's capabilities in semiconductor technologies and offering the best performance for applications in a wide range of sectors, 22 Member States are currently signatories of this [initiative](#). The European Alliance for Industrial Data, Edge and Cloud builds on the [political will](#), expressed by all 27 Member States in October 2020, to foster the development of the next generation cloud and edge capacities for the public and private sectors. A [press release](#) is available online. *(For more information: Sonya Gospodinova – Tel.: +32 229 66953; Charles Manoury – Tel.: +32 229 13391)*

Five MEDIA-supported films awarded in 2021 Cannes Film Festival

Five EU-funded titles have received awards in this 74th edition of the [Cannes Film Festival](#), which concluded on Saturday, 17 July with a closing ceremony. *Titane*, by Julia Ducournau, which received EU support for its development, was the big winner of the night, being awarded with the prestigious Palm d'Or. Additionally, *Compartment n.6*, by Juho Kuosmanen, received the Grand Prix. *Lamb*, by

Valdimar Jóhannsson and Prayers for the Stolen, by Tatiana Huezo, received prizes in the 'Un certain regard' category. Furthermore, Olga, by Elie Grappe, was awarded at La Semaine de la Critique competition. A total of [17 MEDIA-supported films](#) were competing for awards in this year's edition of the festival in several categories, including the official competition, 'Un certain regard', 'Out of competition', 'Cannes Premiere' and 'Special screening', as well as in the festival's parallel competitions: the Directors' Fortnight and La Semaine de la Critique. Overall, the EU invested over €2.1 million through the [MEDIA](#) strand of the [Creative Europe programme](#) for the development and international distribution of these seventeen titles. These and many other productions will be featured within the context of the [30 years of MEDIA](#) campaign, which celebrates the EU's continued support to the audiovisual industry throughout the past three decades, highlighting the work of the industry, both in front and behind the camera, and the true impact of EU support in the sector. (For more information: Sonya Gospodinova – Tel.: +32 229 66953; Charles Manoury – Tel.: +32 229 13391)

REACT-EU: plus de 580 millions d'euros pour la Belgique, la Croatie et l'Allemagne en soutien aux demandeurs d'emploi et aux travailleurs des secteurs particulièrement touchés par la pandémie

La Commission a accordé plus de 580 millions d'euros à la Belgique, à la Croatie et à l'Allemagne pour les soutenir face à l'impact économique et social de la pandémie de coronavirus. Les ressources additionnelles viennent compléter trois programmes opérationnels (PO) du [Fonds Social Européen](#) (FSE) dans le cadre de [REACT-EU](#). En Belgique, 3 millions d'euros supplémentaires pour le PO FSE de la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale permettront d'épauler environ 8 000 demandeurs d'emploi touchés par la crise du coronavirus. Ils bénéficieront d'une assistance dans leur recherche d'emploi, d'opportunités de stages, d'une formation professionnelle ou d'un accompagnement dans la reprise de leurs études. En Croatie, le PO du FSE « Ressources humaines efficaces 2014-2020 » recevra 530 millions d'euros complémentaires pour préserver les emplois pendant la pandémie de coronavirus et suite aux deux tremblements de terre majeurs en 2020, qui ont durement impacté l'économie croate. Les nouveaux fonds REACT-EU seront affectés aux programmes de préservation de l'emploi pour environ 280 000 personnes dans des secteurs touchés de manière disproportionnée par la crise, tels que l'hébergement et la production alimentaire. En Allemagne, le PO du FSE pour Brême recevra 48,5 millions d'euros de plus pour venir en aide à environ 900 jeunes, à les aider à entreprendre une nouvelle formation, ou à terminer leur formation professionnelle ailleurs après qu'ils aient été licenciés par une entreprise insolvable. 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 se concentrent sur le soutien de la résilience du marché du travail, de l'emploi, des PME et des familles à faible revenu, ainsi que sur la mise en place de fondations pérennes pour les transitions verte et numérique et une reprise socio-économique durable. (Pour plus d'informations: Stefan De Keersmaecker – Tél.: +32 229 84680; Veerle Nuyts – Tél.: +32 229 96302; Veronica Favalli - Tél.: +32 229 87269; Enda McNamara - Tél.: +32 229 64976)

Commission seeks feedback to improve public sector website and mobile apps accessibility

The Commission launches today a [public consultation](#) on the review of the [Web Accessibility Directive](#). Since 23 June 2021, all public sector websites and mobile apps in the EU have the legal obligation to be accessible to people with disabilities. The last step is now to review the application of the Directive in practice. For this purpose, today's consultation will gather feedback from citizens, especially those with disabilities, but also from businesses, online platforms, academics, public administrations and all other interested parties. The online consultation will be itself accessible to screen readers, translated in all EU official languages, and available in a shorter [easy-to-read version](#) for people with cognitive disabilities. It will remain open until 25 October 2021. The results of the consultation will feed into the review and will help improve the impact of the directive on making public sector websites and mobile apps accessible. The findings of the review will be published in an accessible format in June 2022. (For more information: Sonya Gospodinova – Tel.: +32 229 66953; Charles Manoury – Tel.: +32 229 13391)

Investment Plan for Europe supports Kevaka bypass infrastructure project in the Baltics

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has signed up to finance the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) that will design, build, finance and maintain a bypass to the stretch of the E67/A7 motorway that currently passes through the municipality of Kekava in Latvia. The EIB will lend €61.1 million to the project, which will divert transit traffic away from densely populated areas of Kekava to a new route

bypassing it from the west. The transaction is supported by the [European Fund for Strategic Investments](#), the main pillar of the [Investment Plan for Europe](#). This project will improve road safety and reduce health risks for local residents. It will support the improvement of the section of the A7 motorway (part of the Via Baltica) south of Riga, which connects the Latvian capital to the Lithuanian border and is part of the core Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). The project marks the first public-private partnership financing in Latvia for the EIB, and is in itself the first large-scale PPP in the Baltics. Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Executive Vice-President responsible for an Economy that Works for People, said: *"I am glad that the Investment Plan for Europe will provide a financial guarantee to the EIB for the construction of the Kekava bypass, which will be the first large-scale public-private partnership in the Baltics. It will ensure the most efficient road transport connection between the Latvian capital Riga and the Lithuanian border. This investment will strengthen the Trans-European Transport Network, contributing to social, economic and territorial cohesion in the European Union."* The [Investment Plan for Europe](#), which has so far mobilised €546.5 billion of investment, of which €1.4 billion in Latvia. A [press release](#) is available online. (For more information: Veerle Nuyts – Tel.: +32 229 96302; Enda McNamara – Tel.: +32 229 64976)

Antitrust: Commission closes investigation into airline ticket distribution services

The European Commission has decided to close its investigation into the agreements used by booking system providers Amadeus and Sabre with airlines and travel agents. The investigation was opened in [November 2018](#) due to concerns that terms in Amadeus' and Sabre's agreements with airlines and travel agents for the distribution of airline tickets might breach EU competition rules which prohibit agreements between companies that prevent, restrict or distort competition within the EU (Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)). The closure decisions are based on a thorough analysis and careful assessment of all the evidence gathered during the investigation. The Commission has reached the conclusion that the evidence collected is not sufficiently conclusive to justify pursuing the investigation further. The closure of the investigation is not a finding that the agreements in question comply with the EU competition rules. The Commission will continue to monitor developments in the airline ticket distribution sector. In parallel, the Commission is currently reviewing the Regulation which governs the relationship between airlines, booking system providers and travel agents ([Regulation \(EC\) No 80/2009 on a Code of Conduct for computerised reservation systems](#)). The Commission is conducting an [impact assessment](#) to examine the full range of policy options and their potential implications. More information on the investigation is available on the Commission's [competition website](#), in the public [case register](#) under the case number AT.40617 Airline ticket distribution (Amadeus) and AT.40618 Airline ticket distribution (Sabre). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

State aid: Commission opens in-depth investigation into arbitration award in favour of Antin to be paid by Spain

The European Commission has opened an in-depth investigation in order to assess whether an arbitration award, to be paid by Spain in favour of Antin as compensation for the foregone support following the modification of a renewable electricity support measure, is in line with EU rules on State aid. In 2007, Spain established a scheme to support the production of electricity from renewable sources. This scheme was not notified to the Commission for approval under State aid rules. In 2013, Spain modified the terms under which renewable installations could receive support. The modifications apply also to installations that had started to receive the support under the 2007 scheme. On 10 November 2017, the Commission adopted a [decision \(SA.40348\)](#) that found the 2013 support scheme for renewable electricity to be in line with EU State aid rules. An arbitral award of 2018 (Antin vs Spain) found that Spain had infringed the Energy Charter Treaty ('ECT') when it modified the 2007 renewables support scheme and introduced a new support scheme in 2013 with lower amounts of support. The arbitral tribunal ordered Spain to compensate Antin for losses suffered as a consequence of the modifications of the 2007 scheme. The compensation amounts to €101 million, plus interests on this sum and a contribution to the costs of the arbitration proceedings. At this stage, the Commission's preliminary view is that the arbitration award would constitute State aid, as it grants Antin an advantage equivalent to those provided for by the non-notified 2007 Spanish scheme. The Commission will now carry out an in-depth investigation to determine whether its initial concerns are confirmed. The opening of an in-depth investigation provides all interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the measure. It does not prejudge in any way the outcome of the investigation. A full press release is available [online](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

State Aid: Commission approves a Portuguese calculation methodology proposed for guarantee premiums on loans to micro, and small and medium enterprises

The European Commission has approved, under EU State aid rules a Portuguese calculation methodology for guarantee premiums on guaranteed loans for micro, and small and medium enterprises. The calculation methodology will serve the granting authorities to calculate price guarantees at market-rate, or to calculate the aid element in guarantees for the purpose of the application of the De Minimis Regulation or of the General Block Exemption Regulation. The Commission assessed the methodology under EU state aid rules, and in particular the Commission's [Guarantee Notice](#), that determines if financial guarantees constitute State aid or not. The Commission found that the methodology (i) is in line with the Guarantee notice; (ii) makes the guarantee scheme self-financing; (iii) ensures that there is no cross-subsidisation between rating categories; (iv) takes into account a realistic estimate of administrative costs; and (v) provides an adequate remuneration of capital. In addition, the methodology ensures that lending banks will not benefit from the State guarantee, by linking the guarantee premium to the overall lending rate. The non-confidential version of the decision will be made available on the Commission's [competition website](#), in the public [case register](#) under the case number SA.61340, once any confidentiality issues have been resolved. *(For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)*

State aid: Commission re-approves Dutch €3.4 billion liquidity support to KLM

The European Commission has re-approved, under EU State aid rules, a €3.4 billion Dutch aid measure consisting of a State guarantee on loans and a subordinated State loan to KLM to provide urgent liquidity to the company in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. This decision follows the [annulment](#) of its [initial decision](#) of 13 July 2020 by the General Court (GC), which considered that the Commission did not provide sufficient reasoning in particular on (i) why KLM was the only beneficiary of the Dutch aid measure, and (ii) why KLM had not benefitted from the previous French aid measure granted to Air France ([SA.57082](#)). The effects of the annulment were suspended for two months, pending the adoption of a new decision by the Commission. In its new decision, the Commission confirmed its previous assessment and addressed the issues identified by the GC by providing further information on the functioning of the Air France-KLM group and on the contractual arrangements in place regulating the granting of aid by the Netherlands and France. The Commission also carried out a thorough assessment of the Dutch and French aid measures and of their effective beneficiaries. On this basis, 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](#). Today's decision ensures that the disbursed aid to KLM will not have to be repaid. More information will be available on the Commission's [competition website](#), in the public [case register](#) under the case number SA.57116 once confidentiality issues have been resolved. *(For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)*

State aid: Commission approves €1 billion Spanish recapitalisation scheme to provide debt and capital support to companies affected by the coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved, under EU State aid rules, Spanish plans to set up a €1 billion recapitalisation fund that will invest through debt and equity instruments in certain companies affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme was approved under the State aid [Temporary Framework](#). The scheme will be implemented through a recapitalisation fund, which goes under the name 'Recapitalisation Fund for companies affected by COVID 19 outbreak'. The measure is open to companies established in Spain and active in all sectors except the financial one, with total net yearly revenues of minimum €15 million and up to €400 million on a consolidated basis, and that are now facing capital needs due to the coronavirus outbreak. Companies that have already received support through the 'Solvency Fund for Strategic Enterprises' approved by the Commission in [July 2020](#) ([SA.57659](#)) are not eligible for aid under this new scheme. The Commission found that the Spanish measure is in line with the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework, in particular, with respect to recapitalisation measures and aid in the form of subordinated debt instruments. Finally, only companies that were not considered to be in financial difficulty already on 31 December 2019 are eligible for aid under this scheme. The Commission concluded that the measure is necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of Spain, in line with Article 107(3)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. On this basis, the Commission approved the measure under EU State aid rules. Executive Vice-President Margrethe **Vestager**, in charge of competition policy, said: *"This €1 billion recapitalisation scheme will enable Spain to support*

companies affected by the coronavirus outbreak by facilitating their access to finance in these difficult times. We continue working in close cooperation with Member States to find workable solutions to mitigate the economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak, in line with EU rules.” A full press release is available [online](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

State aid: Commission approves €10 million scheme to compensate companies in Flemish Region for events rebooking costs due to coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved a €10 million scheme to support event-organizing companies in the Flemish Region affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The measure was approved under the State aid [Temporary Framework](#). The scheme aims at compensating event-organizing companies for the mainly staff related costs incurred in relation to the re-booking of cancelled events. The beneficiaries are companies active in the Flemish Region, active in certain sectors (mainly arts, entertainment and recreation), excluding the financial sector, the primary production of agricultural products and the fishery and aquaculture sectors. The aid will take the form of direct grants. Eligible companies are those that have suffered a loss in relation to a cancelled event that should have originally taken place between 13 March 2020 and 30 June 2021. The aid amount is based on the number of rebookings: in principle, €2 per rebooking and for a minimum number of 10 000 rebookings per beneficiary. The Commission found that the scheme is in line with the conditions set out in the State aid [Temporary Framework](#). In particular: (i) the aid will not exceed the maximum ceiling of €1.8 million per company; (ii) the scheme is open until 31 December 2021; and (iii) aid may not be granted to medium and large enterprises that were already in difficulty on 31 December 2019. 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 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.63932 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)

Concentrations: la Commission autorise l'acquisition du contrôle conjoint du Groupe Apave par PAI Partners et Association Gapave

La Commission européenne a approuvé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, l'acquisition du contrôle conjoint des entreprises Apave SA at Elansym SAS (« Groupe Apave ») par PAI Partners SAS (« PAI ») et Association Gapave (« Gapave »), toutes basées en France. Le Groupe Apave comprend des entreprises actives principalement en France dans le domaine de la maîtrise des risques techniques, humains et environnementaux ainsi que dans la formation relative notamment à la maîtrise de risques. Gapave est une association régie par la loi française contrôlant exclusivement le Groupe Apave avant l'opération. PAI est une société de capital-investissement, principalement active en Europe, dont les principaux secteurs d'investissement sont les biens de consommation, les biens de l'industrie, la distribution, la santé et les services aux entreprises. La Commission a conclu que l'acquisition envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème de concurrence compte tenu de son impact très limité sur la structure du marché. L'opération a été examinée dans le cadre de la procédure simplifiée du contrôle des concentrations. De plus amples informations sont disponibles sur le site internet [concurrence](#) de la Commission, dans le [registre public](#) des affaires sous le numéro d'affaire [M.10335](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Arianna Podesta – Tél.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tél.: +32 229 90526)

Concentrations: La Commission autorise l'acquisition de Hypion par HanseWerk, EDF, IPP, et EARH

La Commission européenne a approuvé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, l'acquisition de Hypion GmbH basée en Allemagne par HanseWerk AG (« HAW »), EDF Deutschland GmbH (« EDF »), IPP Projects GmbH (« IPP ») et Entwicklungsagentur Region Heide AöR (« EARH »), toutes basées en Allemagne. Hypion est active dans le développement et commercialisation de projets d'hydrogène vert et d'autres gaz industriels produits à partir d'hydrogène vert. HAW et EDF sont actives dans les secteurs de l'électricité, gaz, chauffage et de la gestion des déchets. IPP est active dans les secteurs de la protection de l'environnement, de la construction et de l'ingénierie des processus. EARH est active dans les secteurs du développement et

mise en œuvre des concepts liés au logement, l'économie et le commerce. La Commission a conclu que la concentration envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème de concurrence, compte tenu de son impact très limité sur la structure du marché. La transaction a été examinée dans le cadre de la procédure simplifiée de contrôle des concentrations. De plus amples informations sont disponibles sur le [site internet concurrence](#) de la Commission, dans le [registre public](#) des affaires sous le numéro d'affaire [M.10243](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Arianna Podesta – Tél.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tél.: +32 229 90526)

Concentrations: La Commission autorise l'acquisition de Deli Home par Ardian

La Commission européenne a approuvé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, l'acquisition de Deli Home Holding B.V. (« Deli Home ») basée aux Pays-Bas par Ardian France SA (« Ardian ») basée en France. Deli Home fournit des produits d'amélioration de l'habitat à base de bois aux détaillants de produits de bricolage, aux marchands de matériaux de construction, et aux marchés en ligne. Ardian est actif dans le secteur des prises de participation privées et gère des fonds actifs dans un large éventail d'industries. Ardian contrôle aussi indirectement des sociétés de portefeuille, y compris Maxeda, un grand détaillant de bricolage actif dans le Benelux, connus sous l'enseigne Praxis aux Pays-Bas, et sous les enseignes Brico et Brico Planit en Belgique. La Commission a conclu que la concentration envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème de concurrence, compte tenu du fait que l'entité fusionnée n'aura ni la capacité ni l'incitation à s'engager dans des stratégies de verrouillage des intrants et des clients. En tout état de cause, l'impact de la concentration sur la structure du marché est limité. De plus amples informations sont disponibles sur le [site internet concurrence](#) de la Commission, dans le [registre public](#) des affaires sous le numéro d'affaire [M.10263](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Arianna Podesta – Tél.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tél.: +32 229 90526)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of joint control over Boomi by TPG and Francisco Partners

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control over Boomi, Inc., by TPG Partners VIII LP ('TPG') and Francisco Partners Management LLC ('Francisco Partners'), all of the US. Boomi provides Integration Platform as a Service ('iPaaS'), a suite of cloud services enabling development, execution and governance of integration flows. Boomi also provides Full Life Cycle API Management services, which enable organizations to plan, design, implement, test, publish, operate, consume, maintain, version, and retire Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). TPG is a private investment firm that invests in a variety of companies. Francisco Partners is a private investment firm specialised in partnering with technology businesses. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, given the very limited horizontal overlaps and the lack of any vertical relationships between the activities of the companies. 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.10322](#). (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

The Spokesperson's Service has re-opened the Berlaymont press room to a limited number of journalists. For more information, please see [here](#).