



Daily News 16 / 02 / 2021

Brussels, 16 February 2021

Aviation: slot relief enacted

Following [a proposal by the Commission](#) from December 2020, yesterday the Council adopted the amendment to the Slot Regulation that relieves airlines of airport slot-use requirements for the summer 2021 scheduling season. The amendment allows airlines to return up to half of the airport slots that they have been allocated before the start of the season. Commissioner for Transport, Adina **Vălean**, said: *"We welcome the final text of the amendment which allows to better adjust slot rules to consumer demand for air travel, fosters competition and sets the path for a gradual return to normal rules. I expect that this initiative will incentivise airlines to make efficient use of airport capacity, and that it will ultimately benefit EU consumers."* The Commission has delegated powers for one year after the amendment enters into force, and so can extend the rules until the end of the summer 2022 season, if necessary. The Commission may also adapt the use rate within a range of 30-70%, depending on how air traffic volumes evolve. The legal acts will be published in the EU Official Journal in the coming days and enter into force the day after their publication. You will find more details [here](#). (For more information: Tim McPhie – Tel.: +32 229 58602; Stephan Meder – Tel.: +32 229 13917)

Digitalisation of EU justice systems: Commission launches public consultation on cross-border judicial cooperation

Today, the European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on the modernisation of EU justice systems. The EU aims to support Member States in their efforts to adapt their justice systems to the digital age and improve [EU cross-border judicial cooperation](#). Didier **Reynders**, Commissioner for Justice, said: *"The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of digitalisation, including in the field of justice. Judges and lawyers need digital tools to be able to work together faster and more efficiently. At the same time, citizens and businesses need online tools for an easier and more transparent access to justice at a lower cost. The Commission strives to push this process forward and support Member States in their efforts, including as regards facilitating their cooperation in cross-border judicial procedures by using digital channels."* In December 2020, the Commission adopted a [communication](#) outlining the actions and initiatives intended to advance the digitalisation of justice systems across the EU. The public consultation will gather views on the digitalisation of EU cross-border civil, commercial and criminal procedures. The results of the public consultation, in which a broad range of groups and individuals can participate and which is available [here](#) until 8 May 2021, will feed into an initiative on digitalisation of cross-border judicial cooperation expected at the end of this year as announced in the [2021 Commission's Work Programme](#). (For more information: Christian Wigand - Tel.: +32 229 62253; Katarzyna Kolanko - Tel.: +32 229 63444; Jördis Ferrolli - Tel.: +32 229 92729)

Agriculture : la Commission approuve deux nouvelles indications géographiques de Croatie

La Commission européenne a approuvé la demande d'inscription de la « [Dalmatinska panceta](#) » et de la « [Dalmatinska pečenica](#) » de Croatie dans le registre des indications géographiques protégées (IGP). La « Dalmatinska panceta » est un produit de viande séchée de longue conservation de forme rectangulaire, produit à partir de lard maigre de porc. La « Dalmatinska pečenica » est un produit de viande séchée de longue conservation sans os, fabriqué à partir du muscle long dorsal du porc. Produites en Dalmatie, elles présentent des caractéristiques organoleptiques spécifiques, notamment une saveur légèrement salée, de la tendreté, du fondant, ainsi qu'une note discrète de fumé. Ces propriétés sont le résultat de la méthode de production spéciale et des conditions particulières du climat dalmate. L'art de la conservation de la viande par salage et séchage s'est répandu dans toute la Dalmatie dès l'époque où cette dernière était sous administration romaine. Ce savoir-faire s'est transmis de génération en génération et s'est perfectionné au fil du temps, si bien que le processus de fabrication, bénéficiant en outre de conditions climatiques favorables et de la disponibilité

permanente de sel marin, a fini par s'inscrire dans les traditions de la Dalmatie. Ces nouvelles appellations vont rejoindre 1512 produits alimentaires déjà protégés dont 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)

Concentrations: La Commission autorise l'acquisition du contrôle en commun d'Alpha Trains par PGGM, Arcus et AMP*

La Commission européenne a autorisé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, l'acquisition du contrôle en commun d'Alpha Trains (Luxembourg) Holdings S.à.r.l. (« Alpha Trains »), basée au Luxembourg, par Stichting Depositary PGGM Infrastructure Funds (« PGGM »), basée aux des Pays-Bas, Arcus European Investment Manager LLP (« Arcus ») et AMP Capital Investors Limited (« AMP »), toutes deux basées au du Royaume-Uni. Alpha Trains est une société spécialisée de leasing ferroviaire fournissant du matériel roulant à des opérateurs tant publics que privés dans un certain nombre de pays d'Europe continentale. PGGM assure la gestion des retraites pour différents fonds de pension ainsi que pour les employeurs et salariés affiliés. Arcus est un gestionnaire de fonds indépendant spécialisé dans les infrastructures européennes. AMP est un gestionnaire d'investissement opérant dans un large éventail de catégories d'actifs dans le monde entier. La Commission a conclu que l'acquisition envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème de concurrence en raison de l'impact limité qu'elle aurait sur le marché. L'opération a été examinée dans le cadre de la procédure simplifiée de contrôle des concentrations. De plus amples informations sont disponibles sur le [site internet de la concurrence](#) de la Commission, dans le [registre public](#) des affaires, sous le numéro [M.10136](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Arianna Podesta – Tél.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tél.: +32 229 90526)

Mergers: Commission clears joint acquisition of Edenvale Solar Park by Sojitz and Eneos

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the joint acquisition of Edenvale Solar Park Pty Ltd. ('Edenvale') of Australia by Sojitz Corporation ('Sojitz') and Eneos Corporation ('Eneos'), both of Japan. Edenvale is active in the development, construction and operation of a solar farm in Queensland (Australia). Both Sojitz and Eneos are active in the production, trading and marketing of electricity, amongst other activities in the energy sector. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, given that Edenvale has no actual or foreseen activities within the European Economic Area. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.10072](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners Schmit, Breton and Kyriakides host Pact for Skills roundtable with executives and representatives from the health ecosystem

This afternoon, Commissioners **Schmit, Breton** and **Kyriakides** will host a high-level roundtable on the Pact for Skills with the health ecosystem. This is part of a series of sectoral roundtables to foster stakeholder involvement under the [Pact for Skills](#). Announced under the [European Skills Agenda](#) in July, the Pact was [launched on 10 November](#). The objective of the Pact is to mobilise all relevant actors – industrial, social, regional and education partners – to assist people in developing the right skill-set for a sustainable, social and resilient recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. Partnerships established under the Pact will benefit from Commission support such as a partnership platform and information on EU funding options. The health sector has been identified as an important industrial ecosystem to partner up with under the Pact due to the severe consequences of the pandemic on health systems and, the strong engagement of health stakeholders and industrial players, as well as the great potential of digital technologies for the sector. Upskilling (improving existing skills) and reskilling (training in new skills) of healthcare workers are important drivers for the recovery from the pandemic and for the long-term effectiveness and resilience of the sector. The use of digital skills in assisting and facilitating the transformation of health systems and patient safety is of particular

interest. (For more information: Marta Wieczorek – Tel.: +32 229 58197; Sonya Gospodinova – Tel.: +32 229 66953)

Migration: Commissioner Johansson in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania

On Thursday, Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva **Johansson**, will travel to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania to discuss the cooperation with both countries on migration and our partner countries' migration management systems. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Commissioner will meet with members of the Presidency, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, the Minister of Security, the Prime Minister of the Una-Sana Canton and the Mayor of Bihać. She will visit the Lipa camp together with representatives from the Ministry of Security as well as IOM, other UN agencies and partners. Bosnia and Herzegovina hosts some 8,000 migrants and refugees, with up to 6,000 people living in EU-funded facilities in the Sarajevo and Una Sana cantons. Last December, the EU supported the setting-up of provisional shelter at the Lipa site as well as providing warm clothing, blankets, food and medical support. On Saturday, in Albania, she will meet the President of the Republic, Ilir Meta; Prime Minister, Edi Rama; Minister of Interior, Bledi Cuci; and the leader of the opposition, Luzlim Basha. The Commissioner and the Prime Minister will give a press conference at 10am CET, which will be available on [EBS+](#). The Commissioner will also travel to the Kakavia border crossing with Greece, where she will visit the Frontex-Albania joint border control operation. Finally, she will visit an EU-funded project providing COVID-19 protective equipment for migrants. (For more information: Adalbert Jahnz - Tel.: + 32 229 53156; Ciara Bottomley - Tel.: +32 229 69971; Laura Bérard - Tel.: +32 229 55721)

[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.

[Eurostat](#): communiqués de presse

* Please note that due to a clerical error, this was published on 16 February 2021 instead of 17 February 2021.

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