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Protection des consommateurs européens: la « Safety Gate » aide efficacement à retirer les produits dangereux liés à la COVID-19 du marché

La Commission européenne a publié aujourd'hui son [rapport](#) annuel sur la « [Safety Gate](#) », le système d'alerte rapide de l'UE relatif aux produits de consommation dangereux, qui aide à retirer les produits non alimentaires dangereux du marché. Le rapport montre que le nombre de mesures prises par les autorités à la suite d'alertes augmente chaque année: un nouveau record a été atteint en 2020, avec 5 377 mesures, contre 4 477 en 2019. En 2020, 9 % des alertes émises concernaient des produits liés à la COVID-19, principalement des masques qui étaient censés protéger mais ne le faisaient pas. Parmi les autres produits dangereux liés à la COVID-19 notifiés dans la « Safety Gate » figuraient par exemple des désinfectants contenant des substances chimiques toxiques, comme du méthanol, qui peut entraîner la cécité, voire la mort en cas d'ingestion, ou des systèmes de désinfection par UV exposant les utilisateurs à d'importants rayonnements provoquant des irritations cutanées. Didier **Reynders**, le commissaire chargé de la justice, a déclaré à ce sujet : « *La 'Safety Gate' a démontré qu'elle était à l'épreuve des crises: au cours de la pandémie de COVID-19, elle a aidé à protéger les consommateurs en jouant un rôle essentiel aux fins de la diffusion efficace et rapide d'informations sur les produits dangereux, tels que les masques ne présentant pas une sécurité suffisante ou les désinfectants toxiques, et de leur retrait du marché. Grâce à des outils de protection comme celui-là, les droits des consommateurs sont davantage garantis.* » Un [communiqué de presse](#) et une [fiche d'information](#) sont disponibles en ligne. (Pour plus d'informations: Christian Wigand — Tél. + 32 229 62253; Katarzyna Kolanko — Tél.: + 32 229 63444; Jördis Ferroli — Tél.: + 32 229 92729)

Judicial cooperation: Strengthening Eurojust's cooperation with third countries on international crime

Yesterday, the Council approved of the Commission's proposal to strengthen the cooperation of the European Union's Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation ([Eurojust](#)) with non-EU countries. The aim of the Commission is to ensure more effective transnational judicial cooperation. The negotiating mandates approved of by the Council will allow the Commission to start negotiations on the exchange of information with thirteen countries: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. Commissioner for Justice, Didier **Reynders**, said: "We have to strengthen Eurojust's role both inside and outside the EU. Criminals don't stop at European borders, they act globally. With an effective cooperation between EU countries and partner countries, we can catch more criminals and make the world safer." One important aspect of the negotiations will be adequate safeguards regarding the protection of personal data, privacy and fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals. The Commission recommended the Council authorise the opening of negotiations for these agreements [on 19 November 2020](#). (For more information: Christian Wigand - Tel.: +32 229 62253; Katarzyna Kolanko - Tel.: +32 229 63444; Jördis Ferroli - Tel.: +32 229 92729)

Le Plan d'investissement pour l'Europe soutient le lancement d'une boîte à outils en ligne sur la méthanisation à destination du monde agricole en France

La Banque des Territoires, avec l'appui de la [Plateforme européenne de conseil en investissement](#) de la Commission européenne et de la Banque européenne d'investissement, a développé une « boîte à outils méthanisation » à destination du monde agricole en France. Il s'agit d'une plateforme de conseils et d'ingénierie permettant aux exploitants agricoles de concrétiser dans les meilleures conditions leur projet de méthanisation. La méthanisation est un processus biologique naturel de dégradation d'une matière organique par des micro-organismes. Cette dégradation aboutit à la production de biogaz et d'un digestat, résidu du processus, qui peut être utilisé comme fertilisant. Cette méthode permet de valoriser des déchets d'origine agricole, pour produire localement de

l'énergie renouvelable et de stabiliser ou de créer des emplois locaux dans une logique d'économie circulaire et durable. Le vice-président exécutif Valdis **Dombrovskis** a déclaré : « *Ce projet de la Banque des Territoires, soutenu par la BEI et la plateforme européenne de conseil en investissement démontre comment un soutien ciblé peut aider les entreprises agricoles à valoriser leurs émissions de méthane d'origine naturelle dans la production de biogaz et diversifier leur approvisionnement énergétique. C'est une vraie réussite, tant pour l'environnement que pour l'économie, puisque des emplois et des compétences locales sont créés grâce à ce projet.* » La Plateforme européenne de conseil en investissement fait partie du [Plan d'investissement pour l'Europe](#). Vous pouvez trouver de nombreux exemples de projets qui ont reçu le soutien de la [Plateforme européenne de conseil en investissement](#) sur son site. Le [communiqué de presse](#) est disponible en ligne. (Pour plus d'informations : Marta Wieczorek – Tél.: +32 229 58197; Flora Matthaes – Tél.: +32 229 83951)

State aid: Commission opens in-depth investigation into compensation for early closure of lignite-fired power plants in Germany

The European Commission has opened an in-depth investigation to assess whether German plans to compensate lignite-fired power plants for phasing out earlier than foreseen are in line with EU State aid rules. According to the German coal phase out law, the use of coal for the production of electricity will have to phase-out by 2038. Germany has decided to enter into agreements with the main producers of lignite-fired electricity, RWE and LEAG, to encourage the early closure of lignite-fired power plants. Germany notified the Commission of its plan to compensate these operators with €4.35 billion for (i) foregone profits, as they cannot continue to sell electricity on the market, and (ii) additional mine rehabilitation costs resulting from the anticipated closure. At this stage, the Commission's preliminary view is that the German measure in favour of the lignite operators mentioned above is likely to constitute State aid. Furthermore, the Commission has doubts that the measure is in line with EU State aid rules. 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 Germany and any interested third parties with the opportunity to submit comments. It does not prejudge the outcome of the investigation. Executive Vice-President Margrethe **Vestager**, in charge of competition policy, said: "*The phase-out of lignite-fired power plants contributes to the transition to a climate-neutral economy, in line with the European Green Deal objectives. In this respect, our role is to safeguard competition by making sure that the compensation granted to the operators of the plants for phasing out earlier than foreseen is kept to the minimum necessary. The information currently at our disposal does not allow us to confirm this with certainty, and we will now investigate this further.*" The full press release is available [online](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344)

State aid: Commission approves increase of €240 million in budget of existing Latvian scheme to support companies affected by coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has found the modification of an existing Latvian scheme to support companies affected by the coronavirus outbreak to be in line with the State aid [Temporary Framework](#). The existing scheme was approved by the Commission on 16 December 2020 ([SA.59592](#)) and was first amended on 3 February 2021 ([SA.61338](#)). Latvia notified to the Commission the following modifications (i) an increase of the budget from €70.8 million to €310.8 million (ii) the possibility to grant aid up to €1.8 million per company active in sectors other than primary production of agricultural products, fisheries and aquaculture; and (iii) other technical amendments. The Commission concluded that the scheme, as modified, remains 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.61873 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 modified €1.2 billion Danish 'umbrella' scheme to support self-employed affected by coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has found the modification of the existing Danish 'umbrella' scheme to support micro and small sized self-employed undertakings affected by the coronavirus outbreak to be

in line with the State Aid [Temporary Framework](#). The original 'umbrella' scheme was approved by the Commission on [8 December 2020](#) ([SA.59764](#)). Denmark notified the following modifications to the scheme: (i) an increase in the total budget of the scheme, from DKK 500 million per month (approximately €67 million) to DKK 615 million per month (approximately € 82.5 million), for a total estimated budget of the entire scheme of DKK 9.2 billion (approximately €1.2 billion); (ii) the increase of the maximum aid amount per month that can be granted to each beneficiary, from DKK 23,000 (approximately €3,090) to DKK 33,000 (approximately €4,400), (ii) the prolongation of the scheme until 31 December 2021. The Commission found that the scheme, as modified, is in line with the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. In particular, the support (i) will not exceed €225,000 per beneficiary active in the agriculture sector, €270,000 per beneficiary active in the fishery and aquaculture sector and €1.8 million per beneficiary active in all other sectors as provided by the Temporary Framework; and (ii) aid will be granted before 31 December 2021. The Commission concluded that the scheme, as amended, remains 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 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.61946 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 €10 million Italian public support to compensate Toscana Aeroporti for damage caused by coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved, under EU State aid rules, a €10 million Italian aid measure to compensate Toscana Aeroporti, the operator of the Pisa and Florence airports, for the damage it suffered due to the coronavirus outbreak. In order to limit the spread of the coronavirus, on 10 March 2020, Italy imposed a nationwide lockdown. The lockdown was lifted as of 3 June 2020, but certain travel warnings, travel bans and restrictive measures remained in place until at least 15 June 2020. This resulted in high operating losses for the operator of the Pisa and Florence airports. The measure, which will take the form of a direct grant, will enable the Italian authorities to compensate Toscana Aeroporti for the damage suffered during the period between 10 March and 15 June 2020, as a result of the restrictive measures on international and domestic air passenger services implemented by Italy and other countries to limit the spread of the virus. The Commission assessed the measure under Article [107\(2\)\(b\)](#) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which enables the Commission to approve State aid measures granted by Member States to compensate companies for the damage directly caused by exceptional occurrences, such as the coronavirus outbreak. The Commission found that the notified measure will provide compensation for damage that is directly linked to the coronavirus outbreak. It also found that the measure is proportionate, as the compensation does not exceed (and is actually lower) than what is necessary to make good the damage. On this basis, the Commission concluded that the scheme is in line with EU State aid rules. More information on 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.59518 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 €15 million Portuguese scheme to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Azores region in context of the coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved a €15 million Portuguese scheme to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises with head offices or permanent establishments in the region of the Azores in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme, called 'Apoiar.PT Açores –4ºT 2020', is open to companies from sectors most severely affected by the economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme was approved under the State aid [Temporary Framework](#). Under the scheme, the public support will take the form of direct grants. The scheme will be open to companies that have experienced a 25% fall in turnover in the last quarter of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. The measure complements another measure, approved by the Commission on [10 February 2021](#) ([SA.61758](#)), which referred to the fall in turnover in the first three quarters of 2020. The aid will correspond to 20% of the lost turnover, with a maximum amount of €5,000 for micro companies, €20,000 for small companies and €50,000 for medium-sized ones. Micro and small companies active

in certain specific sectors and which declare a turnover decline of more than 50% will receive direct grants equal to 40% of the fall in turnover, with a maximum aid amount of €12,000 for micro-companies and €48,000 for small ones. The Commission found that the Portuguese scheme is in line with the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. In particular, (i) the support will not exceed €1.8 million per company; and (ii) the aid will be granted before 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.62023 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)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SMEs: Commission and the European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency support SMEs in the space sector

The Commission and the European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency (GSA) will present the winners of the MyGalileoSolution and MyGalileoDrone competitions in the first [Entrepreneurship Day 2021](#) virtual press conference on 3 March. The competitions showcase how the agency fosters innovation for SMEs and start-ups based on the EU Space Programme. They will feature the top 80 contestants of both [MyGalileoDrone](#) and [MyGalileoSolution](#) in three thematic areas, showcasing applications relating to drones, internet of things and mobile applications, all leveraging on Galileo satellite technology. The winning teams were selected based on their innovative use of Galileo, their market-oriented approach and commercial potential. The total prize pool of the competitions was €1.7 million, including the grand prizes for the top teams and smaller awards for qualifying solutions. Contestants were evaluated by a team of experts composed by the GSA and European Commission and the main award criteria involved innovation, Galileo relevance, market potential and feasibility in realizing the ideas. Commissioner for Internal Market, Thierry **Breton**, said: *“The future of the European space industry is a combination of strong institutional leadership and European approach to New Space. The new Space entrepreneurship initiative: CASSINI launched earlier this year is made to boost start-ups and space innovation. The dynamism of European entrepreneurs using EU space technology is once more confirmed by the very positive reactions to the MyGalileo competitions.”* Rodrigo da Costa, GSA Executive Director, said: *“The MyGalileoSolution and MyGalileoDrone competitions play an important role in fostering the uptake of Galileo across a wide range of market segments. A key role of the GSA, and of EUSPA in the future, is to increase the competitiveness of the EU downstream industry by supporting innovators, SMEs and start-ups. These two competitions help us to do exactly that.”* Both competitions are in line with the [Commission's CASSINI space entrepreneurship initiative](#) for the period 2021-2027. First announced in the [EU SME Strategy](#), the initiative aims to increase the number and the chances of succeeding of space-based start-ups as well as facilitate access to public and private capital for both them and SMEs. Registration to follow the press conference are open until 2 March [here](#). For more information on the winners of the competition [here](#). (For more information: Sonya Gospodinova – Tel.: +32 229 66953; Célia Dejond – Tel.: +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.

[Eurostat](#): communiqués de presse