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Commission welcomes agreement on postponing adoption deadlines for certain European Sustainability Reporting Standards

The Commission welcomes the political agreement reached yesterday between the European Parliament and the Council on the Commission's proposal to postpone by two years the deadline for adopting sector-specific European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS). This was among the proposals included in the [2024 Commission Work Programme](#) to reduce administrative burden for companies and to cut reporting requirements by 25%.

The Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) requires all large companies and listed SMEs to report using common mandatory standards. The CSRD includes provisions for the adoption of sector-specific ESRS. The agreement reached yesterday postpones the deadline for these sector-specific standards from mid-2024 to mid-2026. This will give companies more time to comply with the horizontal standards adopted in July 2023, which apply to all companies, irrespective of their economic sector. In addition, the CSRD sets out separate standards to be used by certain non-EU companies. Yesterday's agreement also postpones the adoption deadline for these standards from mid-2024 to mid-2026.

Mairead **McGuinness**, Commissioner for Financial Services, Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union, said: *"This decision shows that we hear the concerns of businesses and we are responding. Sustainability reporting by companies is critical for the green transition and for transparency towards investors. In the medium- and long-term standardised reporting requirements means less burden on companies – not more. But we understand that the pace of change can be challenging for many companies. That's why I am pleased that the Council and Parliament have agreed with our proposal to take more time to adopt the sector-specific reporting standards. It is fully consistent with our aim to reduce overall reporting requirements."*

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Commission welcomes provisional agreement to ban all remaining intentional uses of toxic mercury in the EU

The Commission welcomes the provisional political agreement reached between the European Parliament and the Council on the [Commission's proposal for a revision of the Mercury Regulation](#). Given the availability of alternatives, the revised Mercury Regulation will **prohibit the last intentional remaining uses of mercury in the EU. By prohibiting the use of dental amalgam** as of 1 January 2025 and by **introducing a prohibition to manufacture, import and export of certain mercury-containing lamps**, this revised regulation **will further protect Europeans from toxic mercury**. This represents a major step forward to safeguard human health as well as to deliver significant environmental benefits, in line with the EU's Zero Pollution ambition.

The new law will help the EU and its Member States deliver on their commitments under the [European Green Deal](#), the [Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability](#) and the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#).

Member States will have to make the shift from dental amalgam to mercury-free dental filling materials. They will also have to cease producing and exporting mercury-containing lamps, replacing them instead with mercury-free alternatives like LEDs, which are also more energy efficient. These measures are aligned with those taken under other relevant EU legislation, such as the [Regulation on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances](#) (RoHS).

A press release with more information is available [online](#).

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Commission is gathering views on draft DSA guidelines for election integrity

Today, the Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) to seek views on draft Digital Services Act (DSA) guidelines on the integrity of electoral processes. These are the first ever guidelines under Article 35 of the DSA and aim to present Very Large Online Platforms and Search Engines with best practices and possible measures to mitigate systemic risks on their platforms that may threaten the integrity of democratic electoral processes.

The draft guidelines provide examples of potential mitigation measures relating to election-related risks, specific mitigation measures linked to Generative AI content, the planning of risk mitigation measures before or after an electoral event and specific guidance for the European Parliament elections.

Margrethe **Vestager**, Executive Vice-President for a Europe Fit for the Digital Age, said: *"In 2024, we have elections at local, regional, national, and European levels. For this to go well we need have to public discussions – and a lot of those are happening online. With the Digital Services Act, we have concrete tools to work together with online platforms. We can address the emerging online risks to electoral processes, like deep fakes. So we can enable people, in a safe way, to engage, discuss and make up their minds without illegal interference."*

Thierry **Breton**, Commissioner for Internal Market, said: *"With the Digital Services Act, Europe is the first continent with a law to address systemic risks on online platforms that can have real-world negative effects on our democratic societies. 2024 is a significant year for elections. That is why we are making full use of all the tools offered by the DSA to ensure platforms comply with their obligations and are not misused to manipulate our elections, while safeguarding freedom of expression"*.

Under Article 35 of the DSA the Commission, together with the Digital Services Coordinators of the Member States, may issue guidelines in relation to specific risks, to present best practices and recommend possible mitigation measures. The exploratory consultation is open for feedback until 7 March 2024.

The draft guidelines build on an election integrity readiness dialogue, carried out by the Commission with several of the [first 19 designated platforms](#) for which the DSA provisions apply since end-August 2023. They also take into account, to the extent relevant for DSA compliance, of other relevant legislative and non-legislative initiatives such as the [Regulation on transparency of political advertising](#), the [AI Act](#), the [strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation](#) and the [Commission's recommendation to promote free, fair and resilient elections](#).

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Europeans show strong support for EU civil protection in Eurobarometer survey

Today, the European Commission published the results of the [Special Eurobarometer measuring public opinion about European civil protection actions](#) in the Member States. Results show a strong consensus among the citizens of the European Union that civil protection activities should be coordinated across the EU. An overwhelming majority of respondents (94%) in the 27 EU Member States thinks that when a disaster strikes in an EU country that is too big to deal with on their own, other EU countries should provide help. Nearly the same number (91%) are supportive of the EU helping any country in the world affected by a disaster.

The survey results show clear support for the EU's role in crisis management, with nine in ten respondents stating that it is important that the EU helps coordinate the response to disasters in the EU and other countries. According to the survey, also nine in ten Europeans agree that coordinated EU action should be increased to deal more effectively with disasters and crises in the future. The proportion of EU citizens who want a stronger role has increased by 6 percentage points since 2020, from 84% to 90%. A full press release is available [here](#).

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Le concours européen des jeunes traducteurs dévoile les 27 gagnants de cette année

La Commission européenne annonce les [27 jeunes lauréats](#) de son 17e concours européen de *Juvenes Translatores* destiné aux écoles secondaires. Le thème de cette année était « Oser faire la

différence ».

Plus de trois mille participants enthousiastes ont mis leurs compétences linguistiques à l'épreuve en choisissant de traduire un texte entre deux des 24 langues officielles de l'UE. Bien que l'anglais joue un rôle important, sur les 552 combinaisons linguistiques disponibles, les élèves de 701 écoles ont utilisé 155 combinaisons, dont le roumain vers le suédois et le tchèque vers le danois.

Les étudiants participant au concours ont eu l'occasion de découvrir le monde fascinant de la traduction. Comme le dit un étudiant d'une école autrichienne : « *Juvenes Translatores n'était pas seulement pour moi un concours, mais aussi une opportunité de découvrir la traduction. Une expérience, une prise de conscience qui m'a permis de reconnaître à quel point les langues peuvent être différentes, mais qu'au fond elles nous connectent tous.* »

Les traducteurs de la Commission européenne ont sélectionné un **gagnant pour chaque pays de l'UE**, ainsi que 247 étudiants qui ont reçu des **mentions spéciales pour leurs traductions exceptionnelles**.

La cérémonie de remise des prix aura lieu à Bruxelles, le 21 mars 2024.

L'objectif du concours *Juvenes Translatores* est de promouvoir l'apprentissage des langues dans les écoles et de donner aux jeunes un aperçu de ce que signifie être traducteur. Le concours est ouvert aux élèves du secondaire âgés de 17 ans et se déroule en même temps dans toutes les écoles sélectionnées de l'UE.

Le multilinguisme, et donc la traduction, fait partie intégrante de l'UE depuis la création des Communautés européennes. Elle a été inscrite dans le tout premier [règlement](#), adopté en 1958. Depuis lors, le nombre de langues officielles de l'UE est passé de 4 à 24, à mesure que de plus en plus de pays rejoignent l'UE.

Un communiqué de presse est disponible [en ligne](#).

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Commission clears acquisition of Project Pinnacle I by ERG and Apex

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control of Project Pinnacle I of the US by ERG of Italy and Apex Clean Energy Holdings ('Apex') of the US.

The transaction relates primarily to the production of renewable energy.

The Commission concluded that the notified transaction would not raise competition concerns, given the limited impact on the European Economic Area. The notified 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.11444](#).

(For more information: Lea Zuber - Tel.: +32 2 295 62 98; Sara Simonini - Tel.: +32 2 298 33 67)

Commission clears creation of joint venture by Telefonica Brasil and Auren Comercializadora

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the creation of a joint venture by Telefônica do Brasil S.A. ('Telefonica Brasil') and Auren Comercializadora de Energia Ltda ('Auren Comercializadora'), both of Brazil.

The transaction relates primarily to the electricity sector in Brazil.

The Commission concluded that the notified transaction would not raise competition concerns, given the limited impact on the European Economic Area. The notified 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.11449](#).

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Commission clears acquisition of ESL by OPSI and Aspo

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control of ESL Shipping Ltd ('ESL') by OP Finland Infrastructure LP ('OPSI') and Aspo Plc ('Aspo'), all of Finland.

The transaction relates primarily to the sector of shipping services.

The Commission concluded that the notified transaction would not raise competition concerns, given that the companies are not active in the same or vertically related markets. The notified 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. 11389](#).

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Sinkevičius in Ukraine to discuss environmental consequences of the war and EU's ongoing support for Ukraine's green reconstruction and recovery

Tomorrow and on Saturday, Commissioner **Sinkevičius** will be in Kyiv to discuss with President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy the **Environmental Compact** drafted by the High-Level Working Group on the Environmental Consequences of the War. The Compact sets out strategic recommendations to support Ukraine across three pillars: the **assessment of environmental damages from the war**, Ukraine's **green recovery and reconstruction** and **legal accountability for environmental war crimes**. Launched in June 2023, the High-Level Working Group on the Environmental Consequences of the War gathers environmental leaders from across Europe and beyond to support Ukraine in its green recovery.

Commissioner **Sinkevičius** will also hold several bilateral meetings to discuss the state of Ukraine's environment, the challenges and opportunities ahead. He will meet with Ukrainian government and Verkhovna Rada representatives as well as civil society representatives.

During his visit, he will also discuss more broadly the state of **Ukraine's green reconstruction and recovery** as well as the important work Ukraine is undertaking on environmental priorities in its accession process. This work builds on the outcomes of the [Ukraine Green Recovery Conference](#) organised by the Commission as well as the '[United for Justice, United for Nature](#)' event last year.

The Commissioner will also visit the areas around Chernobyl and the surrounding damaged forests.

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[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.

[Prochains événements](#) de la Commission européenne

[Eurostat](#): communiqués de presse