



**Brussels, 28 September 2018**

#### **POLAND INFRINGEMENT PROCEDURE EXTENDED BY COMMISSION**

The European Commission has referred Poland to the Court of Justice of the European Union, in reaction to a new national law that puts 27 out of 72 sitting Supreme Court judges at risk of being forced to retire by lowering the retirement age from 70 to 65. In the eyes of the Commission, the measure is incompatible with EU values as it undermines the principle of judicial independence, including the irremovability of judges. With its referral, the Commission has requested an expedited procedure at the Court of Justice, to order interim measures restoring the situation prior to the law's entry into force.

#### **EU MAINTAINS SUPPORT FOR IRAN DEAL AFTER TRUMP SLAMS 'GLOBALISM'**

Speaking at the UN General Assembly, US President Donald Trump upheld the principle of national sovereignty in the face of growing "globalism" and called the Iran nuclear deal "a windfall" for the country's leaders. On their part, EU leaders underlined the importance of a multilateral rules-based order. A meeting of the E3/EU+2 chaired by High Representative Federica Mogherini confirmed the EU's commitment from all parties to fully implement the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as well as to maintain and develop payment channels –notably the initiative to establish a Special Purpose Vehicle—to facilitate payments related to Iran's exports (including oil) and imports.

#### **COMMISSION PROPOSES ACTIONS TO IMPROVE RECYCLING IN EU MEMBER STATES**

The European Commission presented a blueprint for action to ensure 14 Member States comply with EU waste legislation. Recognising that there are serious gaps with the current implementation of the EU's waste laws, the blueprint aims to ensure countries meet their 2020 target of 50% recycling. Countries targeted include Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Poland and Spain. The Commission will follow up on its report by undertaking visits of all Member States at risk of not meeting their municipal waste recycling targets, to discuss methods to increase recycling.

#### **MALMSTRÖM MEETS US AND JAPAN COUNTERPARTS TO DISCUSS TRADE REFORM**

Trilateral trade talks between the EU, the US and Japan continued this week at Ministerial level. Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Japanese Trade Minister Hiroshige Sekō met to address issues such as trade-distortive practices and the reform of the World Trade Organisation. Following their meeting, they released a joint statement touching upon non-market-oriented policies, industrial subsidies and forced technology transfer policies, and e-commerce. Finally, the Ministers reaffirmed their cooperation in a format that was launched last year and that serves to prepare for international meetings such as the upcoming G20 summit.

#### **ACTION TAKEN BY COMMISSION TO ENSURE UK MAKES CUSTOM DUTIES AVAILABLE TO EU**

Following a proposal made by Commissioner for Budget Günther Oettinger, the Commission sent a reasoned opinion to the United Kingdom for its failure to make customs duties available to the EU budget. The decision to take the second step in the formal infringement procedure follows a 2017 report by the EU's anti-fraud body OLAF which found importers in the UK evaded a large amount of