



**Brussels, 21 December 2018**

### **NEW RULES ON CLEAN ENERGY, SINGLE-USE PLASTICS, TRUCK CO2 EMISSIONS APPROACH**

The co-legislators made significant progress on several 'sustainability' proposals, reaching inter-institutional agreements on the so-called Single-use plastic proposal and the Clean energy for all Europeans package. The former will be the most ambitious legal instrument at the global level addressing marine litter whilst the latter is a major step towards completing the Energy Union and combatting climate change. In addition, the Council secured a General Approach setting new CO2 emissions rules for trucks. From 2025 onwards, new trucks and buses should emit on average 15% less CO2. Trilogue negotiations on this file are expected to start in January under the Romanian Presidency.

### **EU GEARS UP FOR NO-DEAL BREXIT SCENARIO**

With less than 100 days before Brexit day, the Commission announced the adoption of contingency measures envisaged in case of a no-deal scenario. In a Communication, the Commission specified that such measures would be i) limited in time and scope, ii) unilateral, iii) taken in the EU's own best interests, and iv) revocable at any time. The 14 specific measures relate to citizens' rights, financial services, transport, customs, climate policy and the UK-Ireland PEACE programme. The Commission called on the European Parliament and the Council to ensure the adoption of the proposed legislative acts so that they are in force by 29 March 2019.

### **MAJOR PROGRESS ON SEVERAL FINANCIAL SERVICES DOSSIERS**

During a busy week for the financial services agenda, the European Parliament and the Council agreed to introduce new rules for a common minimum coverage of non-performing loans (NPLs), or NPLs 'backstop,' as well as for cross-border payments and currency conversions in the EU. Both Regulations are expected to enter into force in Q1/2 2019. Separately, the Council's Committee of Permanent Representatives (Coreper) agreed its position on the low carbon benchmarks and sustainability disclosure requirements proposals. Given that the European Parliament has already finalised its position on both proposals, trilogue negotiations will likely begin in January.

### **COUNCIL ENDORSES CYBERSECURITY ACT AHEAD OF ENTRY INTO FORCE IN 2019**

EU Ambassadors approved the final Cybersecurity Act text. Overall, the new rules reinforce the mandate of the EU Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA), to better support Member States in dealing with cybersecurity threats and attacks. They also establish an EU framework for cybersecurity certification, boosting the cybersecurity of online services and consumer devices. The Regulation will enter into force in May/June 2019, following the formal adoption by the co-legislators. It will start to apply 20 days after publication, except for certain provisions related to cybersecurity certification which require Member States to designate certain authorities.

### **EU STEPS UP WTO ACTION AGAINST CHINA'S FORCED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS**

The EU has challenged in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) the systemic practices that force European companies to give up sensitive technology and know-how as a precondition for doing business in China. According to Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström "this clearly goes against the rules that China committed itself to when it joined the WTO." This legal action builds on a case

launched by the EU in June 2018. If a satisfactory solution is not reached within 60 days, the EU may request the WTO to set up a panel to rule on the compatibility of China's measures with WTO rules.

**COMING UP NEXT WEEK**

- **No important EU events**

***WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR! EU INSIGHT WILL BE BACK IN JANUARY 2019.***

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