



### IN BRIEF

#### **EU/Energy: Energy efficiency labelling set for trialogue**

On 6 July 2016, the European Parliament voted to modernize the Energy Efficiency Labelling Framework in Europe. During July's Plenary Session, over 580 MEPs decided to approve Dario Tamburrano's Report allowing the rapporteur to start the three-way informal negotiations with the Council and Commission. The report that was presented by the ITRE Committee builds on the foundations of the Commission's proposal and aims to develop a framework for energy efficiency labelling that is tougher on products and easier for consumers to understand. The text sets a 21 months to 6 year timeframe to modify the labels for the existing products on the market. It also states that every new rescaling should have a validity of at least 10 years and should be triggered by technological advancements. MEPs were also in favor of setting up a product database in the form of a consumer website, with information on each product, and a "compliance" interface to help market surveillance authorities.

For more information on Energy Efficiency Labelling, please click [here](#).

#### **EU/European Council: Presentation of the Priorities of the Slovak Presidency**

On 6 July 2016, in the morning's plenary session of the European Parliament regarding the priorities of the Slovak Presidency in the EU Council of Ministers, the Slovak Prime Minister Róbert Fico announced that the Presidency aims to bring new thoughts on what the EU should offer to European public. In light of the results of the British referendum, Mr. Fico explained that the EU has to focus not only on crisis management but also create and explain a long-range plan on EU. To do this, the Union has to collaborate to deliver clear results for its Members, and mostly for its citizens, thus regaining their trust and oppose the growing nationalism across Europe. The Slovak Prime Minister thinks that the EU is a a great idea which is not yet perfect and therefore would like to start a dialogue on how to improve it and make it more efficient, focusing on the EU should become less bureaucratic and more prepared to handle cultural diversity.

For more information on the Slovak Presidency, please click PUT [THE LINK MAX PUT THE LINK](#).

#### **EU/ TTIP: French trade and commerce minister claims TTIP impossible to conclude in 2016**

On 5 July 2016, Matthias Fekl criticised the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership focusing on the impossibility for a deal to be concluded before the end of the Obama administration in the US. He cited as the main hurdle the reluctance of the US side to make concessions on topics with crucial importance for the EU. However experts esteem that the actual reason behind France's

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negativity on TTIP is the approaching 2017 presidential elections in the country. President Hollande does not want to make TTIP a part of the issues in the presidential campaign, fearing that politicising TTIP would be a “breeding ground for populism” and lead to an even more Eurosceptic mood in the EU. Trade Commissioner Malmstrom commented that the negotiations will continue, with commitment from all Member States, and representing the UK as one of them despite the results from the EU referendum.

For more information on TTIP, please click [here](#).

### **EU/ CETA: European Commission announces CETA as a mixed agreement, giving national parliaments power for its final ratification**

On 5 July 2016, after remarks from top French and German politicians, the European Commission has decided that CETA will be a “mixed agreement”, giving parliaments in all Member States the word before the final ratification of the agreement. This has been done to appease the moods in the Council, despite Malmstrom’s announcement that from a legal point of view, CETA falls under the EU’s exclusive competence and does not need national ratification. However, this comes under the condition that CETA will be provisionally applied as soon as a decision has been reached by the European Parliament and the Council. Another hurdle for the agreement could arise in Council, where Bulgaria and Romania could oppose a favourable Council decision, due to the refusal from the Canadian side to reconsider, ease or remove visa restrictions for citizens of the two countries. This, hence, makes the future of CETA less certain, prompting a Politico poll to declare it dead.

For more information on CETA, please click [here](#).

### **EU/H2020: €86 million to be invested in 236 innovative enterprises across Europe.**

236 innovative SMEs from 31 different countries will receive €86 million from the European Commission thanks to new Horizon 2020 grants. These are the latest results of calls under the €3 billion SME Instrument, launched under Horizon 2020 to help innovative small firms get ideas to the market and help generate growth and jobs in Europe. Up until now 2116 have been funded by the SME instrument, with more than € 694,8 million in EU grants. €77.7 million for innovation activities and business plans (Phase 2). Out of the €86 million, €77.7 million will be given to 58 highly innovative SMEs from 16 countries under Phase 2 of the scheme - in which SMEs will further develop their submitted proposal in Phase 1 of the scheme through innovation activities.

For more information on the SME Instrument, please click [here](#).

### **EU/CORPTAX: Commission proposal to strengthen EU tax transparency rules and fight tax avoidance**

On 5 July 2016 the Commission adopted a proposal to further reinforce EU rules on anti-money laundering to counter terrorist financing and increase transparency about who really owns companies and trusts. The proposal intends to counter new means of terrorist financing, increase transparency to combat money laundering and help strengthen the fight against tax avoidance. It is the first initiative to implement the Action Plan for strengthening the fight against terrorist financing of February 2016 and is also part of a broader vision to increase tax transparency and tackle tax abuse. The next day, on 6 July 2016, Parliament voted on its recommendations for making corporate taxation fairer and clearer. MEPs call for an EU register of beneficial owners of companies, a tax havens blacklist, sanctions against non-cooperative tax jurisdictions, action against abuse of “patent box” regimes, a code of conduct for banks and tax advisors, tax good

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governance rules in EU trade agreements, a common consolidated corporate tax base (CCCTB) and a withholding tax on profits leaving the EU. The report containing these recommendations prepared on behalf of Parliament's TAXE2, were approved by 514 votes to 68, with 125 abstentions. One of the rapporteurs said that tax dumping is done at the expense of the general public and small- and medium-sized companies, which are the backbone of our European economy.

For more information on corporate taxation, please click [here](#).

### PUBLICATIONS

#### **EPICENTER: Corporation tax reform: theory, evidence and avoidance**

In July 2016, the European Policy Information Center (EPICENTER) published a paper on the corporation tax reform. In this paper, Diego Zuluaga analyses the efforts at national, EU and international levels to put forward significant reforms to the corporate tax system. The author believes that the 20th century model of profits taxation is no longer fit for purpose in a globalised world of highly mobile intangible and financial capital. Recent revelations of tax treaties in Luxembourg and bank accounts in Panama have pushed this issue into the limelight.

To access this publication, please click [here](#).

#### **Martens Centre: Rewiring Europe: Five Priorities for a Lasting Digital Economy**

On June 2016, the Martens Centre published a research paper on the process of digitization and digital market integration in Europe. In this paper, Joakim Wernberg and Jacob Dexe highlight five specific policy issues that are crucial to promoting a lasting digital economy in Europe. In particular, the authors highlight urban digital markets as a unique opportunity for the EU to improve the policy response to digital and disruptive entrepreneurship. Used properly, these markets can generate substantial growth and innovation while aiding the transition to a sustainable and world leading European Digital Economy.

To access this publication, please click [here](#).

#### **Cologne Institute for Economic Research: Moving towards a Circular Economy**

On June 2016, Cologne Institute for Economic Research published a research on the EU approach on circular economy. In this paper, Adriana Neligan analyses the European Commission's aim to make the Member States accumulate less waste, and thus plans to tighten its recycling targets. This move would have repercussions for all member states - including the European champion of recycling, Germany. After all, no EU country would meet the proposed target right off.

To access this publication, please click [here](#).

### CONSULTATIONS

#### **Consultation on proposal to introduce a Services Passport and address regulatory barriers in the construction and business services sectors**

**DEADLINE: 26/07/2016**

The European Commission published a public consultation on the proposal to introduce a services passport and address regulatory barriers in the construction and business services sectors, and on possible action to address barriers in the insurance sector.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

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### **Public consultation under the Start-up Initiative**

**DEADLINE: 31/07/2016**

The objective of this public consultation is to seek direct feedback from all relevant stakeholders, including entrepreneurs and start-up communities, with the aim of improving the environment for start-ups in Europe.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

### **Public consultation for the Fitness Check of EU consumer and marketing law**

**DEADLINE: 02/09/2016**

This consultation takes place in the context of the 'Fitness Check' of EU consumer and marketing law. The purpose of the Fitness Check is to evaluate if these directives are fit for purpose on the basis of the criteria of effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

### **Public consultation on the possible revision of the Mutual Recognition Regulation (EC) No 764/2008**

**DEADLINE: 30/09/2016**

With this consultation the Commission seeks the views of all interested parties on: the mutual recognition principle and its possible shortcomings; the functioning of the Mutual Recognition Regulation; potential options to be explored for the revision of the Mutual Recognition Regulation.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

### **Main barriers to the cross-borders distribution of investment funds across the EU**

**DEADLINE: 02/10/2016**

This consultation supports the creation of a Capital Markets Union, of which a key aim is to foster retail and institutional investment of investment funds. This consultation is part of the Action Plan package and builds upon the replies received to both the CMU consultation and the Commission's recent Call for Evidence on the EU regulatory framework for financial services. The Commission will use this information as a basis for taking action to address the cross-border barriers to distribution.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

### **Public consultation on the Internal Market for goods - enforcement and compliance**

**DEADLINE: 31/10/2016.**

Today the European Commission published a public consultation on the evaluation of the market surveillance provisions of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 and on actions to enhance enforcement and compliance in the Single Market for goods.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

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### Public consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights

DEADLINE: 31/12/2016

The objective of the consultation is to make an assessment of the present EU social "acquis", determining the extent to which existing rights are practiced and remain relevant or whether and where new ways to deliver on these rights should be considered; to reflect on new trends in work patterns and societies due to the impact of new technologies, demographic trends or other factors of importance for working life and social conditions.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

### COMING-UP

#### 24 June - 8 July

11-12-13-14 July	European Parliament Committee Meetings
11 July	Informal meeting of environment ministers
11 July	Working Party on Financial Services
11 July	Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth - Internal Market
11 July	Working Party on Social Questions
12 July	Informal meeting of environment ministers
12 July	Economic and Financial Affairs Council
12 July	Informal meeting of energy ministers
13 July	Informal meeting of energy ministers
13 July	Informal meeting of employment, social policy and health ministers
13 July	Informal meeting of energy ministers
13 July	Coreper I
13 July	Coreper II
13 July	Working Party on Trade Questions (WPTQ)
13 July	Working Party on International Environment Issues
14 July	Informal meeting of employment, social policy and health ministers
14 July	Financial Services Attachés
14 July	Coreper II
14 July	Working Party on Tax Questions - Direct Taxation
15 July	Informal meeting of employment, social policy and health ministers
15 July	Trade Policy Committee (TPC)
15 July	Working Party on Financial Services
15 July	Code of Conduct Group (Business taxation)
15 July	Working Party on Tax Questions - Direct Taxation
18 July	Working Party on the Environment
19 July	Working Party on European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
19 July	Working Party on Tax Questions - Direct Taxation
19 July	Working Party on Financial Services
19 July	Working Party on the Environment
19 July	Working Party on Energy
19 July	Working Party on Transatlantic Relations (COTRA)
20 July	Coreper I
20 July	Coreper II
20 July	Trade Policy Committee (TPC) - Experts (Services and Investment)
20 July	Financial services attachés
20 July	Working Party on Social Questions

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20 July

Working Party on the Environment

22 July 2016

Trade Policy Committee (TPC) - Deputies

### Other SME-related events

#### **Policies for digital innovation**

**11/07/2016, Brussels**

On 11 July 2016, Bruegel will welcome Paul Misener, Vice President of Global Public Policy at Amazon.com at this event to discuss innovation and regulation.

#### **Capital Markets Union: delivering new opportunities for SMEs through venture capital**

**13/07/2016, Brussels**

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) represent over 99% of businesses in the EU. They play a critical role in global economic development and are the backbone of the EU economy. It is therefore crucial to support them throughout their life cycle– from seed capital during start up, through to investment during their different states of development, to give them the possibility to grow and innovate.