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TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency 3](#_Toc507513050)

[INTERNAL MARKET 4](file:///\\ORGALIME-FILE01\COMP-orgalime$\Users\COMMON\Central%20Filing%20System%20(CFS)\European%20Sector%20Committees\Info%20bulletins\EFCEM\01-EFCEM.docx#_Toc507513051)

[Outdoor Noise Directive (OND) 4](#_Toc507513052)

[Construction Products Regulation (CPR) 5](#_Toc507513053)

[Pressure Equipment Directive (PED) 5](#_Toc507513054)

[Simple Pressure Vessels Directive (SPVD) 5](#_Toc507513055)

[Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive (EMCD) 6](#_Toc507513056)

[Proposal on compliance and enforcement 6](#_Toc507513057)

[Industrial Policy 7](#_Toc507513058)

[High Level Roundtable “Industry 2030” 7](#_Toc507513059)

[Strategic Forum for Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) 8](#_Toc507513060)

[Digital Agenda 8](#_Toc507513061)

[Digitisation: Artificial Intelligence 8](#_Toc507513062)

[ATEX Directive 9](#_Toc507513063)

[Electromagnetic Fields 10](#_Toc507513064)

[Standardisation Policy 10](#_Toc507513065)

[Services Package 11](#_Toc507513066)

[MARKET ACCESS 12](file:///\\ORGALIME-FILE01\COMP-orgalime$\Users\COMMON\Central%20Filing%20System%20(CFS)\European%20Sector%20Committees\Info%20bulletins\EFCEM\01-EFCEM.docx#_Toc507513067)

[Union Customs Code 12](#_Toc507513068)

[Anti-Counterfeiting / IPR 12](#_Toc507513069)

[Anti-dumping – duties imposed on cast iron products from China 13](#_Toc507513070)

[Anti-dumping – duties imposed Chinese corrosion resistant steel 13](#_Toc507513071)

[EU-China 13](#_Toc507513072)

[EU-Mercosur 14](#_Toc507513073)

[EU-Mexico 14](#_Toc507513074)

[EU-Chile 14](#_Toc507513075)

[Mozambique joins the EPA between the EU and SADC 15](#_Toc507513076)

[REACH 16](#_Toc507513077)

[ENVIRONMENT 16](file:///\\ORGALIME-FILE01\COMP-orgalime$\Users\COMMON\Central%20Filing%20System%20(CFS)\European%20Sector%20Committees\Info%20bulletins\EFCEM\01-EFCEM.docx#_Toc507513078)

[REACH and Nanomaterials 17](#_Toc507513079)

[RoHS2 Directive 18](#_Toc507513080)

[WEEE2 Directive 19](#_Toc507513081)

[Circular Economy 19](#_Toc507513082)

[Circular Economy: Waste Package 20](#_Toc507513083)

[Waste Policy 20](#_Toc507513084)

[Water-using Products - Ecodesign for taps and showers 21](#_Toc507513085)

[Revision of the Drinking Water Directive 21](#_Toc507513086)

[Raw materials 22](#_Toc507513087)

[Eco-Management and Audit Scheme 22](#_Toc507513088)

[EU Ecolabel and Green Public Procurement 23](#_Toc507513089)

[7th Environmental Action Plan (EAP) 23](#_Toc507513090)

[ENERGY 24](file:///\\ORGALIME-FILE01\COMP-orgalime$\Users\COMMON\Central%20Filing%20System%20(CFS)\European%20Sector%20Committees\Info%20bulletins\EFCEM\01-EFCEM.docx#_Toc507513091)

[Energy Efficiency 24](#_Toc507513092)

[Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD) 24](#_Toc507513093)

[Ecodesign Directive 24](#_Toc507513094)

[Ecodesign Directive - Update on Lots / implementing measures 25](#_Toc507513095)

[Energy Union 26](#_Toc507513096)

[Energy poverty 26](#_Toc507513097)

[Governance of the Energy Union 27](#_Toc507513098)

[Energy Efficiency 28](#_Toc507513099)

[Energy Efficiency Directive 28](#_Toc507513100)

[DECARBONISATION & CLIMATE CHANGE 29](file:///\\ORGALIME-FILE01\COMP-orgalime$\Users\COMMON\Central%20Filing%20System%20(CFS)\European%20Sector%20Committees\Info%20bulletins\EFCEM\01-EFCEM.docx#_Toc507513101)

[Revision of the Regulation on fluorinated gases (F-gas Regulation) 29](#_Toc507513102)

[Revision of EU Emissions Trading Scheme 29](#_Toc507513103)

[PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS 31](file:///\\ORGALIME-FILE01\COMP-orgalime$\Users\COMMON\Central%20Filing%20System%20(CFS)\European%20Sector%20Committees\Info%20bulletins\EFCEM\01-EFCEM.docx#_Toc507513104)

[PUBLICATIONS 31](#_Toc507513105)

[EVENTS 32](#_Toc507513107)

[CALLS/ CONSULTATIONS 33](#_Toc507513108)

## Priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency

Bulgaria assumed the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union on 1 January. This is a 6-month term, where a Member State has the opportunity of steering the legislative work of the Council. The Bulgarian presidency published a [work programme](https://eu2018bg.bg/upload/1079/PROGRAMME_BG_PRESIDENCY_EN.pdf) outlining the four broad themes of their priorities: a) economic growth and social cohesion, b) connectivity to the Western Balkans, c) European security and stability and d) digital economy and skills for the future. To achieve results on these themes, the Presidency will work on a broad set of legislative initiatives.

The Presidency will continue to work on the **trade agenda** through ongoing trade discussions with third-countries, and continue efforts on various issues, including anti-dumping and countervailing measures, screening of foreign direct investments into Europe and tackling reform of the International System for Settlement of Investment Disputes and negotiations on the Multilateral Investment Court. Additionally, it will encourage the debate on the deepening of the Economic Monetary Union.

It will work on measures to boost European competitiveness by progressing on the **Common Industrial Policy** through the development of long and medium-term goals, and by addressing the challenges and opportunities affecting industry and the **Digital Single Market** (DSM). Within the Framework of the DSM, the Presidency aims to develop a simplified legal environment for the free movement of non-personal data and advance to the extent possible on the Cyber-Security Act. Furthermore, it will concentrate efforts on progressing negotiations on the Services Package, the Regulation on a Single Digital Portal, and on granting more resources and functions to national market surveillance authorities to improve the functioning of the Single Market.

The Presidency will start the discussions on the **Circular Economy** mini-package in March and it will continue to implement provisions of the **Paris Climate Agreement**, and seek to find a consensus on the Proposal for a regulation on the monitoring and reporting of CO2 emissions on new heavy-duty vehicles. Additionally, it aims to adopt the Waste Legislative Package during its tenure.

In the context of the **Clean Energy Package**, it has commenced preparing the upcoming trilogue negotiations on the proposals on Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy sources and Governance of the Energy Union.

**Author :**

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INTERNAL MARKET

## **Outdoor Noise Directive (OND)**

In the context of the Outdoor Noise Directive (OND) review, the European Commission launched a [public consultation](https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-evaluation-and-possible-revision-outdoor-noise-directive-2000-14-ec_en) at the end of January 2018.

The public consultation is accessible in 6 languages (English, French, German, Italian, Polish and Spanish) until 18 April 2018. It is addressed to industry associations and machinery manufacturers, but also outdoor equipment users and exposed people. The consultation aims to evaluate the current Directive and gather views on identified options for changes. Outcomes will be considered in the ongoing evaluation and impact assessment study, of which the final results are expected in summer 2018.

In parallel to phone interviews carried out with manufacturers, the consultant in charge of the ongoing study organised an [on-line survey](http://gdcc.nebu.com/scripts/dubinterviewer.dll/frames?Quest=C7448C4) to complement the data collection. This mainly aimed to increase the overall number of reached manufacturers, notably in the construction and garden equipment sectors.

After the ongoing study, the European Commission will prepare its proposal to revise the OND together with the impact assessment. The review proposal will be tabled under the next Commission mandate at the end of 2019 at the earliest. Consequently, the revision process of the OND will not be finalised before 2021 or 2022.

Finally, the NOMAD Task Force – a group of market surveillance authorities – is drafting a short guide for users: ‘buy quiet-sell quiet’. The final draft will be approved at the next [Administrative Cooperation Groups](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/administrative-cooperation-groups_fr) (ADCO) meeting in spring 2018. As a reminder, the NOMAD TF already published a guide for manufacturers on how to report noise emissions in instruction manuals and other literature. Further to concerns raised by the industry, the European Commission specified that they did not endorse this guide. Furthermore, industry comments on the necessity and accuracy of the guide will be discussed at the next ADCO meeting.

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## **Construction Products Regulation (CPR)**

The European Commission launched a [public consultation](file:///C:\Users\OJN\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\S0WUZI7U\%20https\ec.europa.eu\info\consultations\public-consultation-eu-rules-products-used-construction-buildings-and-infrastructure-works_en) on the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) in the context of its evaluation. The consultation is running until 16 April 2018.

As a reminder, the European Commission contracted VVA Group to carry out an evaluation and impact assessment study of the CPR. The final report is expected in summer 2018 (see DG Grow [webpage](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/construction/product-regulation/review_en)).

In addition, the European Commission published an updated list of harmonised standards (see [OJ C 435/41](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2017.435.01.0041.01.ENG&toc=OJ:C:2017:435:TOC)) and European Assessment Documents (see [OJ C 435/152](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2017.435.01.0152.01.ENG&toc=OJ:C:2017:435:TOC)) under the CPR in December 2017. They enable manufacturers to draft the declaration of performance (DoP) and CE mark a product under the CPR.

Finally, the European Commission published two draft delegated decisions setting the applicable systems to assess and verify constancy of performance of:

* anchor devices used for construction works and intended to prevent persons from falling from a height and/or to arrest falls from a height (available [here](http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/c-2018-287_en));
* metal faced sandwich panels for structural use (available [here](http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/c-2018-884_en)).

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INTERNAL MARKET

## **Pressure Equipment Directive (PED)**

A new [list of harmonised standards](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2018.049.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ:C:2018:049:TOC) under the Pressure Equipment Directive 2014/68/EU was published in the Official Journal on 9 February (OJEU 9.02.2018 C 49/1).

**Author :**

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## **Simple Pressure Vessels Directive (SPVD)**

A new [list of harmonised standards](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2018.049.01.0022.01.ENG&toc=OJ:C:2018:049:TOC) under the Simple Pressure Vessels Directive 2014/29/EU was published in the Official Journal on 9 February (OJEU 9.02.2018 C 49/22).

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## **Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive (EMCD)**

INTERNAL MARKET

During the last EMC Working Party on 12 February, the Member States’ Market Surveillance authorities and the European Commission reached an agreement on a document entitled “Combination of finished products within the sense of the EMCD”. This paper (available from the [secretariat](mailto:ioana.smarandache@orgalime.org)) clarifies the concept of “apparatus” under the EMCD and was initially present in the draft Commission document on the “Applicability of the LVD/EMCD/RED to Specific Categories of Products”. The Commission plans to include this document in the EMCD Guidelines that will be published in the coming weeks.

In terms of standardisation activities, CEN-CENELEC was requested to correct the Annex ZZ (informative) which should state that the 80/80 rule only provides guidance to manufacturers and does not give presumption of conformity to the EMCD. As a reminder, the 80/80 rule ensures that 80% of appliances in production comply with the EMCD requirements, with a confidence level of 80%. The Commission announced that the harmonised standards which need to be amended will be cited in the Official Journal, provided that the necessary modifications to Annex ZZ are made by CEN-CENELEC.

The next EMC Working Party is scheduled to take place on 29 June.

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## **Proposal on compliance and enforcement**

The European Commission released on 19 December 2017 the so-called “Goods Package” which comprises a [proposal](http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/com-2017-795_en) for a Regulation on compliance with and enforcement of Union harmonisation legislation, as well as a [proposal](http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/com-2017-796_en) for a Regulation on the Mutual Recognition of Goods.

The enforcement and compliance proposal covers all products which are subject to EU harmonisation legislation (in other words, ‘New Approach’ legislation), complementing and amending the current EU legislation on market surveillance (Regulation (EC) N° 765/2008 and Decision N°768/2008/EC). The General Product Safety Regulation (GPSD) remains applicable in addition to the enforcement and compliance proposal.

The main objective of the proposal is to provide a reinforced market surveillance framework, by increasing and improving controls on products entering the EU market, as well as promoting further cooperation between enforcement authorities in different Member States, but also between these authorities and customs authorities. New cooperation mechanisms are also proposed to strengthen the dialogue between the market surveillance authorities and economic operators and other stakeholders, via the set-up of Memoranda of Understanding (article 8) or compliance partnership arrangements (article 7). The proposal also introduces new concepts such as a “person responsible for compliance” (article 4), and the making available of the Declaration of Conformity on the manufacturer’s website or other electronic means (article 5).

INTERNAL MARKET

This proposal has now been transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers, for the legislative process to start. In the Parliament, the rapporteur on the proposal was appointed at the end of January (Nicola Danti: S&D, Italy). The committee responsible for this file is the Internal Market Committee (IMCO). The discussions in IMCO on the proposal have not started yet. On the other hand, in the Council meetings of the Working Party on Technical Harmonisation have already been held in Brussels throughout January and February 2018, as the current Bulgarian Presidency intends to make as much progress as possible on this file during its six-month mandate.

The new Regulation on enforcement and compliance is scheduled to apply as of 1 January 2020.

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ISSUES OF GENERAL INTEREST

## **Industrial Policy**

High Level Roundtable “Industry 2030”

On 22 February, in the framework of the Industry Day 2018, the European Commission launched the work of the High Level Roundtable “Industry 2030”, an advisory body announced in the European Commission [Communication](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2017:479:FIN) of September 2017 on “A renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy.

The Roundtable has been set up for a period of two years and will be tasked, amongst others, with: advising the Commission on the implementation of the Communication, monitoring its progress at international, EU, national, regional, and local level, providing feedback on Commission initiatives and actions for smart, innovative and sustainable industry, assisting the Commission in making conclusions from the EU Industry Day operational and defining priorities for the next one, reflecting on future targets to measure the performance of EU industry and proposing medium and long-term objectives.

The High-Level Roundtable consists of 20 members, including the President of Orgalime. At its first meeting, the Roundtable discussed defining a vision for the future EU industry and how to monitor progress in implementing the EU’s renewed industrial policy.

INTERNAL MARKET || ISSUES OF GENERAL INTEREST

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[Strategic Forum for Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI)](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1517560605813&uri=OJ:JOC_2018_039_R_0003)

On 21 February, the European Commission launched a call for candidatures for a Strategic Forum for Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI), as announced it its Communication on an [Industrial Policy Strategy](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2017:479:FIN) of 13 September 2017. Applications should be sent by 16 March 2018

The Strategic Forum’s tasks have been defined as follows:

* advising the Commission on key value chains in Europe that require joint, well-coordinated actions and investments by public authorities and industries from several EU countries
* helping the Commission build a common European vision for these value chains
* advising the Commission on IPCEIs needed in these value chains
* helping the Commission cooperate and coordinate between public authorities and stakeholders from several EU countries
* helping the Commission monitor progress, reporting on IPCEI-related bottlenecks and obstacles, and proposing solutions to overcome these obstacles
* advising the Commission on any accompanying measures necessary for the successful implementation of new IPCEIs
* advising the Commission on alternative solutions for promoting joint, well-coordinated investments in key value chains when an IPCEI is not feasible

The Forum will have up to 50 members including national authorities and other public entities, individuals appointed in a personal capacity, as well as organisations representing academia, finance, industry, small and medium-sized enterprises, and employees.

More information on the call is available [here](http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=calls.calls_for_app).

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## Digital Agenda

Digitisation: Artificial Intelligence

As part of a new «data package» expected to be presented in April 2018, the European Commission is preparing a Communication on Artificial Intelligence. This Communication aims at setting the agenda for the next Commission in terms of legislative proposals.

INTERNAL MARKET || ISSUES OF GENERAL INTEREST

It is likely to consist of three parts:

1. A review of the funding framework, including R&D programmes, company access to finance (the role of the European Funds for Strategic Investments (EFSI) will be reviewed), support to scale-up. There is a perception within the Commission that the EU is losing ground, notably in terms of investments, compared to the USA and China, which together attract some 83% of external investments on AI. This review is not primarily about start-ups but all industry and SMEs’ access to AI, notably via open platforms.

2. A discussion of the legal and ethical framework, including a review of existing legislation, safety and security issues, liability issues, data access/sharing, and ethics issues. At present, the focus is on a possible revision of the Machinery and the Product Liability Directives. The Commission wants to set up a platform (or “alliance”) for relevant parties including industry, trade de unions, NGOs, researchers etc to discuss these topics. It might include an expectation from stakeholders to make commitments.

The Commission will also publish, together with the Communication, some ideas for sector specific regulations where it feels that the path forward is already clear and there is an immediate risk of diverging national rules: it is probable that the focus will be on a revision of the Machinery and the Product Liability Directives

3. A discussion on the social aspects, namely whether AI will result in net creation or destruction of jobs. For the Commission, there is an urgent need to address the false narrative about massive job losses, as a number of reports have been published on the topic, providing contradictory results. The Communication may propose to take a hard look at education and training systems of the Member States. The Commission would need industry to highlight more case studies showing the positive impact on jobs and for the media to cover it.

Orgalime is currently preparing a position paper on the topic.

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## **ATEX Directive**

The [second edition](http://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/26861) of the Guidelines on the application of the ATEX Directive 2014/34/EU was issued in December 2017. The latest changes reflect the consensus reached at the previous ATEX WG meeting on 11 July 2017, on the following sections: § 115 "Information obligation on notified bodies", § 168 "Requirements in respect of safety-related devices"; § 227 "The EU declaration of conformity", Table 8, items 5 and 6; § 236 "Pressure Equipment Directive 2014/68/EU (PED) and Simple Pressure Vessels Directive 2014/29/EU (SPVD)"; § 237 "Radio Equipment Directive 2014/53/EU (RED)"; "Borderline list - ATEX products".

As it is the case for other Guidelines on ‘New Approach” legislation, the European Commission advises on reading this Guide and the Directive itself in conjunction with the horizontal provisions of the Blue Guide.

Regarding other activities related to ATEX, it was announced at the last ATEX Working Party meeting on 7 February that the next updated list of harmonised standards under the ATEX Directive will be published in the Official Journal in March.

INTERNAL MARKET || ISSUES OF GENERAL INTEREST

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## **Electromagnetic Fields**

The issue of the exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields (EMF) is a recurrent subject in the European Parliament. The topic was linked to batteries and electric mobility by a Portuguese MEP in December 2017. Given the fact that the use of powerful batteries will become increasingly widespread to power e-vehicles, João Ferreira (GUE/NGL) raised a [written question](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bWQ%2bE-2017-007692%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN) to the Commission asking which assessments have been carried out to study the effect of batteries on the environment and health, including electromagnetic fields. The Commission has yet to answer this question.

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## **Standardisation Policy**

On 16 January, the European Commission published its [report](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2018:26:FIN) on the implementation of EU standardisation policy and the contribution of European standards to EU policies. The report points out the strategic actions carried out by the European Commission in view of implementing the new vision for the European Standardisation System, as set out in the Communication “European Standards for 21st century” from June 2016. The report covers the policy elements and objectives of the new vision, such as: promoting innovation, enabling jobs and growth, supporting global value chains, preventing costly fragmentation in the single market etc. At the same time, the Commission takes stock of the work undertaken so far in the Joint Initiative on Standardisation (JIS), and highlights measures for enhancing inclusiveness in the standardisation process.

The report is intended to provide a basis for the inter-institutional dialogue on standardisation at EU level, and to generate discussions between the Commission and the co-legislators on upcoming policy priorities which will be set out in the 2019 Annual Union Work Programme for European Standardisation (AUWP).

Regarding recent events on standardisation, European Commission DG GROW organised on 26 February a [workshop](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/launch-event-new-system-harmonised-standards-consultants_en) on the new system of Harmonised Standards (HAS) Consultants which will come into force on 1 April 2018. As a reminder, the new system of consultants, which is supposed to replace the current system of New Approach consultants, is one of the implementing actions of JIS and serves to improve the quality of the development and adoption of harmonised standards for products. Also, an [open call for expression of interest](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/call-expression-interest-harmonised-standards-consultants_en) for Harmonised Standards (HAS) consultants was launched on 19 February, and will run until 11 March. The role of the HAS consultants will be to check to which extent the documents drafted by European Standardisation Organisations comply with the Commission’s standardisation requests and with the essential requirements of relevant EU legislation.

INTERNAL MARKET || ISSUES OF GENERAL INTEREST

CEN and CENELEC and ETSI hosted together with ENISA an [open event](https://www.cencenelec.eu/news/articles/Pages/AR-2017-007.aspx) on the impact of the Cybersecurity Act for businesses and policy-makers, and on how the European Standardisation System can contribute to the EU Framework for ICT certification. The purpose of the event which took place on 13 February was to collect new best practices enabling manufacturers and service providers to improve the security features of products and systems.

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## **Services Package**

Further to the adoption of the [report](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&mode=XML&reference=A8-2017-0396&language=EN) on the proposal for a Regulation on a Notification Procedure in Services by the Internal Market Committee (IMCO) in the European Parliament, the Council and the Parliament have recently started informal trialogue discussions on the file. The first trialogue took place on 20 February and focused on an initial exchange of views regarding the political objectives of the proposal, notably the legal consequences of the breach of the obligation to notify draft measures, the scope of the notification obligation and the standstill period clause. The next trialogues are scheduled to take place on 22 March and 26 April 2018 under the Bulgarian Presidency.

As a reminder, the proposal aims to increase the efficiency of the notification procedure for a better implementation of the [Services Directive](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32006L0123&from=EN), with a view to facilitating the freedom of establishment of service providers and the freedom to provide services in the single market.

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MARKET ACCESS

*The second proposal on the proportionality test aims to ensure transparency in the way professions are regulated by the Member States, proportionality of national measures to prevent unjustified barriers to professions in the internal market, and harmonisation of the process and criteria for carrying out and applying proportionality tests.*

ISSUES OF GENERAL INTEREST

## **Union Customs Code**

The European Commission published a [Roadmap](http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-866055_en) on an upcoming proposal to amend the Union Customs Code (UCC), with a view to addressing certain technical errors, namely, bringing the UCC into alignment with the CETA (which was not applicable at the time of adoption of UCC) and including two Italian territories in the scope of the EU customs territory.

The proposal is intended to incorporate amendments on specific articles of the UCC. For instance, it is considered that Article 16 should be amended to include economic operators in the scope of electronic systems, which Member States, in cooperation with the Commission, should create, use and maintain for the purpose of exchanging information.

Regarding next steps, the Commission is currently consulting Member States on these technical amendments. Stakeholders can also submit their feedback on the roadmap by 14 March.

This initiative does not require an impact assessment, as it is simply targeted at correcting technical issues. The Commission will undertake an interim evaluation of the UCC legal framework by 2021.

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## Anti-Counterfeiting / IPR

The European Commission has a [public consultation](https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/counterfeitpiracy_watchlist) to establish its first world-wide "Counterfeit and Piracy Watch-List". The aim is to identify the marketplaces outside the EU where counterfeiting, piracy or other forms of intellectual property abuse are common practice. The initiative is part of the Commission's strategy announced in the 2017 Communication "[A balanced Intellectual Property enforcement system responding to today's societal challenges](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-4942_en.htm)". Based on stakeholders' input, the future watch-list will help to raise awareness of consumers that might be buying products in those marketplaces, and encourage their operators and owners to crack down on intellectual property abuse.

MARKET ACCESS || ISSUES OF GENERAL INTEREST

The Commission will also monitor the measures taken by local authorities to reduce the availability of goods and services infringing intellectual property rights in identified markets.

The consultation runs until 16 April 2018.

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**Anti-dumping – duties imposed on cast iron products from China**

On 31 January the European Commission decided to impose definitive anti-dumping duties on iron castings from China. The measures range from 15.5% to 38.1%. The investigation was initiated in December 2016 following a complaint from seven EU producers concerning products from China and India. The investigation found there to be no dumping in the case of India. EU applied anti-dumping measures for the same product imported from China already in the past between 2005 and 2011.

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**Anti-dumping – duties imposed Chinese corrosion resistant steel**

The European Commission has decided to impose definitive anti-dumping duties on corrosion resistant steel from China. The investigation confirmed that Chinese producers were dumping the product on the EU market, a finding that already led to imposition of provisional duties in August 2017. The measures that will be in place for the next 5 years range from 17.2% to 27.9%. Corrosion resistant steel is mainly used in the construction industry, for mechanical engineering, in the production of welded pipes and tubes and in the manufacturing of domestic appliances.

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## **EU-China**

The latest round of negotiations on an EU-China investment agreement took place in December 2017 in Brussels. The next one is scheduled for March 2018.

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## **EU-Mercosur**

The last round on negotiations took place in December 2017 (see [Commission’s report](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/html/156529.htm)). A date for the next meeting has not yet been fixed. All the EU proposals are available [here](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1769).

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## **EU-Mexico**

The last round of discussions took place early January in Mexico and resulted in good progress. Eight chapters of the deal have already been finalised, including competition, small and medium companies, transparency, sanitary issues, good regulatory practices, and trade and sustainable development. Further work on several issues is still required, related both to market access and rules, including geographical indications and investment protection.

The Commission has published the [report](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/html/156557.htm) on the round of talks that took place before Christmas, as well as all the [EU proposals](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1694).

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MARKET ACCESS || ISSUES OF GENERAL INTEREST

**EU-Chile**

The last round of negotiations took place on 15-19 January in Santiago (see [Commission’s report](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/html/156597.htm)). The negotiating teams covered a broad range of issues such as the facilitation of customs procedures, trade in services, investment, competition, rules of origin, and intellectual property. Although the negotiations are still in the early stages, thanks to a positive engagement on both sides, the teams were able to make good progress in most of the areas.

The Commission has also [released its proposals](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1793&title=EU-Chile-trade-talks-Commission-releases-its-proposals-and-reports-about-progress).

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**Mozambique joins the EPA between the EU and SADC**

MARKET ACCESS || ISSUES OF GENERAL INTEREST

The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the European Union and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) became the first regional EPA in Africa to be fully operational after its implementation by Mozambique.

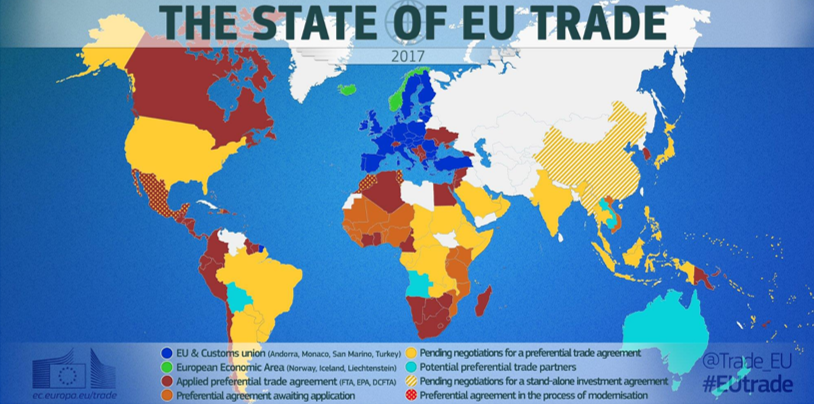
Mozambique was the last piece of the SADC-EPA jigsaw to fall into place. The other five countries – Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South-Africa, and Swaziland – have been implementing the agreement since October 2016. Implementing the EPA means that Mozambique will not have to pay customs duties on its exports to the EU.

Trade between the EU and Mozambique is currently about €2 billion annually. Mozambican exports to the EU include aluminium and raw cane sugar. For more information see [here](http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/regions/sadc/).

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## **REACH**



ENVIRONMENT

* **Candidate List**

ECHA added in January seven new substances to the [Candidate List](https://echa.europa.eu/candidate-list-table) and updated the file for Bisphenol A to reflect endocrine disrupting properties. Most of the substances that were added are not produced intentionally but occur as a constituent or impurity of other substances. Substances like [cadmium carbonate](https://echa.europa.eu/substance-information/-/substanceinfo/100.007.427), [Dechlorane Plus™](https://echa.europa.eu/substance-information/-/substanceinfo/100.033.575) and reaction products of RP-HP, branched and linear, have widespread applications in manufacturing and in an industrial context. As a reminder, inclusion to the Candidate list triggers immediate communication requirements and notification obligations within 6 months (see [here](https://echa.europa.eu/candidate-list-obligations)).

There have been 12 new additions to the [registry of SVHC intentions](https://echa.europa.eu/registry-of-current-svhc-intentions). It should be noted that Sweden notified its intention to include lead in the Candidate List. The publication of the proposal is announced in February 2018. Tt will be followed by a 45-day public consultation.

* **Authorisation**

ECHA published its [8th Recommendation](https://www.echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13640/8th_axiv_recommendation_february2018_en.pdf/10a99e7d-0fac-ff1d-7f17-910d6edb61b9) for Authorisation to the European Commission. In this recommendation, ECHA proposed seven substances to be included in Annex XIV of REACH, for which it did not recommend any exemptions to the authorisation requirements. The Commission will have to decide whether or not it follows ECHA’s recommendation. If it does, it will have to prepare an amendment to Annex XIV which will be voted in the REACH committee. The amendment would tentatively be discussed at the REACH Committee meeting in April, with a vote in subsequent meetings in either June or September. However, this timeline may be subject to change.

As regards authorisation applications, the list of decisions published in the Official Journal is available [here](http://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/28047). Decisions on some applications are still under assessment, including for the use of chromium trioxide although the sunset date expired on 21 September 2017. This is the case for a very large application submitted by the CTASub consortium. The draft Commission’s decision on this application is expected to be discussed with Member States in March 2018 and voted before the summer break. Nevertheless, downstream users (such as equipment manufacturers) can continue to use chromium trioxide if the substance is supplied directly by one of the 7 members of the CTACSub consortium or indirectly by their customers.

* **Restriction**

Tackling oxo-degradable and microplastics features among the measures outlined in the [Plastics Strategy](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/plastics-strategy.pdf). On 17 January, ECHA [announced](https://www.echa.europa.eu/-/echa-to-consider-restrictions-on-the-use-of-oxo-plastics-and-microplasti-1) it was preparing restriction proposals for oxo-plastics and microplastics (see [Registry of Restriction Intentions](https://echa.europa.eu/registry-of-current-restriction-proposal-intentions)). The elaboration of a restriction dossier takes 12 months to prepare. It will be tabled in January 2019. Afterwards, it will take around 18 months before the substances are included in Annex XVII of REACH, i.e. around the summer 2020. Furthermore, ECHA added three more substances to the Registry of Intentions, of which one has several applications in an industrial context: [formaldehyde and its releasers](https://echa.europa.eu/substance-information/-/substanceinfo/100.000.002). These substances can be used in adhesives, sealants, coating products, polymers, polishes and waxes. ECHA has opened a [call for evidence](https://echa.europa.eu/calls-for-comments-and-evidence/-/substance-rev/18151/term) on the use of these substances. It will remain open until 11 April 2018.

ENVIRONMENT

Following the guidance document on the nickel restriction, which was discussed in November between ECHA and the Member States (CARACAL), ECHA is now working on a revision, which will be presented at the next meeting in March.

* **Substitution Strategy**

ECHA published on 29 January a new [strategy](https://www.echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13630/250118_substitution_strategy_en.pdf/bce91d57-9dfc-2a46-4afd-5998dbb88500) to promote substitution to safer chemicals through innovation in the EU. This strategy outlines four actions areas: a) capacity building through the supply chain (through workshops in the Member States), b) facilitating funding access and technical support (by first elaborating a map of existing funding tools and mechanisms), c) facilitating the use of tools for sustainable substitution (using existing data from REACH and CLP) and, d) developing coordination and collaboration between networks. This strategy aims to encourage and assist companies to replace hazardous chemicals by safer ones and is currently part of ECHA’s draft Strategic Plan for 2019-23.

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## **REACH and Nanomaterials**

The [draft amendments](http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2017-4925011_en) to the REACH annexes for registration of nanomaterials are currently under discussion between the Commission and Member States. These amendments would require registrants to include additional information on the potential risks of nanoforms to be included in the registration dossier and chemical safety reports.

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## **RoHS2 Directive**

* **Restricted substances**

The European Commission has launched [a new study on the RoHS Directive](http://rohs.exemptions.oeko.info/index.php?id=127), which is carried out by the Öko Institut (see [project description](http://rohs.exemptions.oeko.info/fileadmin/user_upload/RoHS_Pack_15/Project_Description_RoHS_15_final.pdf) and [technical specifications](http://rohs.exemptions.oeko.info/fileadmin/user_upload/RoHS_Pack_15/Technical_Specifications_RoHS_15.pdf)). Starting in January 2018 for 18 months, the study will last until June 2019.

ENVIRONMENT

The first part of this study aims to update the existing methodology to identify and assess substances for possible restriction. This methodology should be based on criteria specified in the Directive (Recital 10 & Article 6).

In addition, the study should update the substance inventory and give a priority list of substances used in EEE. The study will assess 7 substances for possible restriction in the future (see [here](http://rohs.exemptions.oeko.info/fileadmin/user_upload/RoHS_Pack_15/Technical_Specifications_RoHS_15.pdf)). The report should provide the impacts of these substances’ restriction, a recommendation on whether to restrict them and, if so, a proposal including the restriction scope and potential exclusions.

A series of stakeholder meetings, consultations and interim reports are foreseen. The first stakeholder meeting and interim report are scheduled in March 2018.

* **Exemption methodology**

The second part of the study is dedicated to the exemptions, notably the update of the current methodology to grant new exemptions or renew them. The Commission requires that the future methodology is based on criteria set in the Directive (Article 5.1) and the current method.

In addition, an application case is foreseen: the evaluation of an exemption request for the use of cadmium in luminescent material for semiconductor chips.

* **RoHS exemptions renewal**

The European Commission pursues its work on RoHS exemptions: draft decisions to renew exemptions number 7c-II, 7c-IV, 8b, 15, 21, 29 & 37 were published in mid-February 2018. These exemptions are the second batch of the ‘[Pack 9](http://rohs.exemptions.oeko.info/index.php?id=228)’.

In short, the Commission suggests granting the maximum validity period for all exemptions, meaning until 2021 (since they expired in 2016) for equipment already covered by the substance restriction. The renewed exemptions will expire in 2024 for new equipment in the scope (Category 11).

The European Commission proposed to keep the same wording, except for exemptions 8b, 15 and 21. As a result, certain applications covered by the current exemptions are left out of scope and will consequently expire before 2021. Therefore, the Commission foresees a transition period of 12 months (around September 2020) for non-renewed applications.

Finally, the Commission published an [overview of RoHS exemptions](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/rohs_eee/pdf/Exemptions%20list%20-%20validity%20and%20rolling%20plan_5Feb%2018_public.xlsx) (Annex III & IV), including their validity status and submitted exemption requests. This tool was requested by the industry on many occasions.

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## **WEEE2 Directive**

ENVIRONMENT

The Commission has published a draft implementing regulation on the registration and reporting of WEEE. It has also launched a [public consultation](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-754618_en) that will be open until 8 March. This draft is an updated version integrating the feedback of stakeholders from a previous proposal released in August 2017. The most relevant aspects of the proposal are: quarterly reporting for producers and their authorised representative to the register and annual reporting for third parties. At the moment, the reporting practices and frequencies vary throughout the Member States, though most countries report on an annual basis.

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## **Circular Economy**

On 16 February the Commission released its “mini-Circular Economy Package”. The package contains: the [Plastics Strategy](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1516265440535&uri=COM:2018:28:FIN) (alongside a [Q&A](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-18-6_en.htm) and [factsheets](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/factsheets-european-strategy-plastics-circular-economy_en)), a communication on the [Interface](https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/27321) between chemicals and waste, a [Monitoring Framework](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/monitoring-framework.pdf) for the Circular Economy, reports on [Raw Materials](https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/27327) and [Oxo-plastics](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/oxo-plastics.pdf), and a [Eurobarometer](http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/ResultDoc/download/DocumentKy/81280) on SMEs and the Circular Economy.

The **Plastics Strategy** aims to propose a holistic set of policies and measures to decrease plastic consumption, improve their recyclability and re-use, and drive investment. Identified key measures will be developing harmonised standards for plastics, increasing the uptake of recycled plastics (including through voluntary pledges), and decreasing the release of microplastics to the environment through restrictions under REACH. The Commission will provide guidance on the Eco-modulation of fees for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes.

The **interface between chemicals and waste** communication explores the challenges and policy options on: a) tackling information on the presence of substances for recyclers, b) substances of concern present in waste that cannot be incorporated in new products, c) lack of harmonisation on end-of-waste rules and d) lack of alignment on rules deciding which wastes and chemicals are hazardous. In the [staff working document](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=SWD:2018:20:FIN) the Commission expands on the policy options and provides a series of questions to be included in a public consultation.

Eurostat, the statistical office of the EU, launched a section in its [website](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/circular-economy) dedicated to reporting on Circular Economy indicators. The indicators used in the monitoring framework include: recycling rates, waste generation and raw materials self-sufficiency.

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## **Circular Economy: Waste Package**

ENVIRONMENT

On 18 December the EU Council and the European Parliament reached a [provisional](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/12/18/council-and-parliament-reach-provisional-agreement-on-new-eu-waste-rules/) agreement on the legislative proposals forming the waste package - waste framework directive, packaging, landfills, electrical and electronic waste and batteries.

This agreement updates key definitions of waste concepts, introduces binding targets for municipal and packaging waste at EU level (for the years 2025, 2030 and 2035), stricter requirements for the separate collection of waste, and requirements for extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes. However, these changes will not affect EPR schemes set up under WEEE.

In addition, a database on hazardous substances was introduced in the last round of negotiations. In short, this database would be maintained by ECHA on the basis of information to be communicated by manufacturers or importers of components and equipment. Information provided in the supply chain to fulfil Article 33 of the REACH Regulation would also have to be communicated to ECHA. The database would be accessible to waste treatment operators and customers upon request only. It has been criticised by industry actors as duplicating reporting requirements under REACH and pre-empting the results of the impact assessment on a similar database announced in the [staff working document](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=SWD:2018:20:FIN) on the interface between chemicals and waste.

The text was adopted by EU ambassadors on 23 February and by the Parliament on 27February (the text is available from the [secretariat](mailto:marina.guajardo@orgalime.org?subject=Waste%20Package:%20compromise%20agreement)). As next steps, EU institutions will formally adopt the compromise and publish the revised legislation within the next months.

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## Waste Policy

The Commission published a [notice](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/shipments/pdf/Notice_to_stakeholders_Brexit_waste.pdf) to stakeholders on the U.K. withdrawal effects on waste legislation. In the absence of a transition agreement, as from 30 March 2019 the U.K. would become a third country, and primary and secondary law would cease to apply. This would mainly affect the transboundary movements of waste and waste management and recovery operations in third countries.

The Commission launched a public [consultation](https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-evaluation-waste-shipment-regulation_en) on the revision of the Waste Shipment Regulation ([1013/2006](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32006R1013)). The consultation will seek to establish whether the regulation has fulfilled its objectives and to gather positive and negative examples of implementation. It is open for comments until 27 April.

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## Water-using Products - Ecodesign for taps and showers

ENVIRONMENT

In the context of the ongoing study, the European Commission and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) held a meeting on the labelling of taps and showers on 20 December in Seville. This meeting was dedicated to the industry: participants were supporters of the Water Label (EBF, CEIR, FECS & EWL) and representatives of the WELL Label (EUnited & VDMA).

This meeting follows the stakeholders’ consultation of September 2017. The industry, which submitted three quarters of the received contributions, strongly called for a voluntary label. NGOs and Member States, however, supported a mandatory label.

The current multiplication of water and energy labels on the market brings confusion for both manufacturers and consumers. Therefore, DG Environment has been mandated to set up a single label for taps and showers. There are two options: either a mandatory label through a regulation or an industry self-regulation (Voluntary Agreement) covering at least 80% of the market.

As next step, the JRC intends to organise a workshop in spring 2018 on the standardisation state of play, notably existing methods to assess tap and shower performances. An additional stakeholder meeting may take place before the summer. The Consultation Forum meeting is planned in the autumn.

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## **Revision of the Drinking Water Directive**

The Commission published on 1 February the awaited [proposal](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-drink/pdf/revised_drinking_water_directive.pdf) for a revised Directive on the quality of water intended for human consumption – also known as the Drinking Water Directive (DWD). This review is a response to the European Citizens Initiative “Right2Water” launched in 2013.

The main provisions of importance to manufacturers are the amendments to Article 10 and Annex I, affecting mainly the products and materials in contact with drinking water.

Article 10 on the “Quality assurance of treatment, equipment and materials” has been replaced by another article on “Domestic distribution risk assessment”. This article introduces the obligation to conduct risk assessments linked to the products and materials with drinking water. This article addresses the products in contact with drinking water, and aims at ensuring consistency with the [Constructions Product Regulation](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32011R0305), under which standards for construction products in contact with drinking water will be developed. The purpose of this approach is to minimise approval and testing costs in other countries by having EU-wide standards.

The proposal updates the microbiological and chemical parameters used to assess the quality of drinking water intended for human consumption (Annex I). The purpose is to provide a “clear guidance for the production of hygienically safe pipes and taps”. The proposal links with other ongoing initiatives such as the [Plastics Strategy](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1516265440535&uri=COM:2018:28:FIN), with the goal of reducing consumption of plastic water bottles.

ENVIRONMENT || ISSUES OF GENERAL INTEREST

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ISSUES OF GENERAL INTEREST

## **Raw materials**

The Commission published a [report](https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/27327) on raw materials alongside the mini-Circular Economy package in January. The study highlights European dependence on imports from China and other countries for critical raw materials (CRMs). To ensure better security of supply the report promotes more efficient resource management during the lifecycle and recycling in order to transform them into secondary CRMs.

Amongst the possible further actions identified are: a) examining options for the recovery of materials and energy from landfills, to the extent that it is economically viable, b) tackling recovery of CRMs through ecodesign and disassembly measures, and c) supporting the development of new or existing technologies and/or chemical processes to improve safe recycling and reuse of CRMs. For further details on the overview of future actions please see Annex III of the report.

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## **Eco-Management and Audit Scheme**

The Commission carried out a [public consultation on a Regulation amending the Annex IV to the EMAS Regulation 1221/2009](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2017-6208544_en). The public consultation ran from 18 December 2017 to 15 January 2018. However, the Annex IV text that included the proposed changes was made available only a few days before the consultation deadline (despite our Orgalime Partnership’s request for an extension of the deadline for answer ) making it impossible to send comments.

Annex IV concerns the environmental reporting to be made by organisations in the framework of the EMAS. Changes proposed introduce: the compulsory intervention of an independent environmental verifier, information on the amount of renewable energy sources consumed, a new focus on biodiversity when reporting on land use and the need to indicate an annual reference value representing the activity of the organisation (example according to different types of activity sectors are provided), and the obligation to make the environmental report easily accessible on the organisation’s website.

ENVIRONMENT || ISSUES OF GENERAL INTEREST

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## **EU Ecolabel and Green Public Procurement**

On 16 January 2018, the European Commission published [the EU Strategy for Plastics](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/plastics-strategy-brochure.pdf)to transform the way plastics and plastic products are designed, produced, used and recycled. Ecolabels contribute to the strategy by developing criteria to imporove the recyclability of plastics. The strategy foresees as action to further incentivise the use of recycled plastics, including by developing adequate verification, in EU Ecolabel and Green Public procurement in the course of 2018 and afterwards.

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## 7th Environmental Action Plan (EAP)

The evaluation of the [7th Environment Action Plan](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32013D1386) (EAP), which guides the EU environmental policy, was launched at the end of 2017. In this context, the European Parliament launched an own initiative work on the EAP that will have no binding effects.

On 27 February, the ENVI Committee approved the [draft report](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONSGML%2bCOMPARL%2bPE-612.036%2b01%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN) prepared by rapporteur MEP [Daciana Octavia Sârbu](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/33989/DACIANA%20OCTAVIA_SARBU_home.html). In the report, the rapporteur finds that the EAP has had moderate influence on environmental and climate policies, and that it is useful in providing guidance to Member States and coherence with other environmental policies at the European level.

There remain challenges on the implementation of the program and meeting the 2020 objectives is still uncertain. The trends on resource efficiency and decarbonisation are positive. The trends on waste management are more concerning, with moderate improvements in waste reduction and recycling.

The rapporteur supports the adoption of an 8th EAP, but stresses the need to focus on implementing existing legislation correctly. In addition, she suggests limiting the number of indicators of the EAP and focusing on three core themes: knowledge gaps, policy coherence and financing.

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ENERGY

## Energy Efficiency

Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD)

On 19 December 2017, the EU Council and European Parliament reached an agreement on the proposal for a revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. The EU ambassadors endorsed the agreement on 31 January 2018. Afterwards the text was approved with 52 votes in favour, 7 abstentions and 2 votes against, in the Industry, Research and Energy committee (ITRE) on 22 February. For the final steps the Parliament is expected to vote the text in the April Plenary. Subsequently the text will enter into force 20 days after publication in the EU Official Journal, with a 20-months transposition period into national legislation.

Key elements of this revision are the inclusion of Building Automation Controls Systems (BACS) as alternatives to physical inspections, the introduction of measures to increase infrastructure for e-mobility, the introduction of a voluntary smart-readiness indicator (currently under development) and the introduction of national plans to renovate the European building stock. A more detailed analysis of the changes is available from the [secretariat](mailto:marina.guajardo@orgalime.org?subject=EPBD%20Brief).

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## **Ecodesign Directive**

As a reminder, the European Parliament is working on an own initiative report on the implementation of the Ecodesign Directive. Measures proposed by the European Parliament are not legally binding but will be recommendations for the Commission. The rapporteur [Frederique Ries](https://www.google.be/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjX86vhq8rWAhXEJFAKHW85AmYQFggmMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.europarl.europa.eu%2Fmeps%2Fen%2F4253%2FFREDERIQUE_RIES_home.html&usg=AFQjCNGJpil2z40-65YNEGdNfVGoY2tgmA) (ALDE) has published her [draft report](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=COMPARL&reference=PE-616.861&format=PDF&language=EN&secondRef=01) for the ENVI Committee. The main proposals she makes are: a) avoiding double regulation, b) strengthening the decision-making process and avoiding delays, c) shifting from energy efficiency to resource efficiency measures (composition, disassembly, reparability and recyclability), d) improving market surveillance by promoting cooperation, e) combating built-in obsolescence, and f) increasing coherence and convergence with other environmental policies (chemicals, waste, green public procurement and ecolabel). The report will be voted in the Committee at the end of April and in the plenary session in May.

ENERGY

MEP Rivasi submitted a [draft opinion](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONSGML%2bCOMPARL%2bPE-615.480%2b01%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN) to the Industry (ITRE) Committee. MEPs of the ITRE Committee raised concerns on material and resource efficiency, including issues of water usage in the production chain. On the occasion of an exchange of views with MEPs, the European Commission underlined that the revision of the Ecodesign Directive would be under the competence of the upcoming Commission (to be elected in May 2019).

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Ecodesign Directive - Update on Lots / implementing measures

**Space heaters, water heaters and hot storage tanks, and solid fuel boilers, ENER Lots 1, 2 & 15:** The Commission has published a set of [guidelines](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/guidelinesspacewaterheaters_final.pdf) for these product groups, on product and labelling requirements. In addition, it includes a timetable on the ‘state of play’ of each regulation and when the next reviews will be.

**Standby and off-mode electric power consumption, ENER Lot 6:** The Commission has published an [inception impact assessment](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiative/165992/attachment/090166e5b8184b4f_en) on the review of ecodesign requirements. This regulation currently applies to a wide range of electrical and electronic household and office equipment. The assessment suggests expanding the scope to include electric motors (avoiding an overlap with [Regulation 640/2009](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32009R0640)) operated by remote controls and reducing power consumption in off-mode.

**Domestic and directional lighting, ENER Lots 8, 9 & 19:** the Commission has published an [inception impact assessment](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiative/165807/attachment/090166e5b8181cbb_en) on the review of ecodesign requirements. The purpose is to capture potential energy savings, unify the three ecodesign regulations and update energy labelling. Out of five scenarios, a full review of ecodesign and energy labelling requirements is the preferred option.

**Small air conditioners, ENER Lot 10:** the consultants working on the report published [tasks 3-7](https://www.eco-airconditioners.eu/download) in December. The final report will be available in the coming weeks.

**Vacuum cleaners, ENER Lot 17:** The Commission launched a review study on the ecodesign and energy labelling requirements in July 2017. The study will assess, amongst other issues, whether full size battery-operated vacuum cleaners should be included in the scope. The first interim report should be published in the coming weeks.

**Motors, ENER Lots 11 & 30:** the impact assessment was finalised at the end of 2017. As a next step, DG Energy will consult different Commission services (Inter-Service Consultation) on the draft regulation in March or April 2018. Then, the Commission will notify the draft regulation to the WTO and launch a public consultation – foreseen in the second half of 2018.

**Smart Appliances, ENER Lot 33:** the publication of the final report has been delayed by the Commission. The report is now expected to be published by April/May 2018. The consultation period is foreseen for October/November 2018, with a discussion in the Consultation Forum by end of the year.

**Building Automation and Control Systems, ENER Lot 38:** the first stakeholder meeting took place on 23 January. This study is a scoping exercise, with the intention of identifying the focus area and the direction for future preparatory studies. Some of the identified energy-related domains of BACS are: heating control, domestic hot water supply, cooling, air supply or ventilation, and technical building management systems. The final study is scheduled to be published in March, with further studies on the identified products from this study starting by May 2018 at the earliest.

ENERGY

**High Pressure Cleaners**: A preparatory study on the possible labelling of High Pressure Cleaners was launched at the end of 2017. The Commission mandated the Joint Research Centre (JRC) to perform this study (see [website](http://susproc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/HighPressureCleaners/index.html)). The JRC is currently conducting a stakeholder survey for the Ecodesign study for high pressure cleaners. The study focuses on three types of high-pressure cleaners: cold water commercial and domestic, and hot water commercial.

**Water pumps, Lots 11, 28 and 29:** The review study on pumps comes to an end. The final draft report will be published within the next weeks. As a next step, the Consultation Forum meeting is envisaged in the last quarter of 2018. Then, the European Commission will launch the impact assessment and publish an inception impact assessment. The final adoption of the revised Ecodesign measure is foreseen early 2020 at the earliest.

**Compressors, ENER Lot 31:** The Commission is currently analysing the final study report on ‘oil-free’ and ‘low-pressure’ compressors. The Consultation Forum meeting is expected to take place in May or June 2018. Considering energy savings are very low, only product information requirements seem to be envisaged for the time being. The European Commission envisages to address both standard air compressors as well as ‘oil-free’ and ‘low-pressure’ compressors in a single measure. They will carry out a common impact assessment. The final adoption of the Ecodesign measure on compressors is foreseen in the beginning of 2020 at the earliest.

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ISSUES OF GENERAL INTEREST

## Energy Union

Energy poverty

The [EU Energy Poverty Observatory](https://www.energypoverty.eu/) was launched on 29 January 2018. It is a consortium of 13 organisations including universities, think tanks and business sectors.

The creation of the Observatory was advocated by a number Socialist MEPs during debates on the Clean Energy Package. It has the mission to gather, monitor and research energy poverty data in the EU.

ENERGY || ISSUES OF GENERAL INTEREST

**Author :**

Laure Dulière



Governance of the Energy Union

The review of the Commission’s proposal for a new regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union in the framework of the Clean Energy for all Europeans package has been completed by the Council and by the European Parliament.

On 18 December 2017, after initial difficult discussions, the Council agreed on a general approach. The main elements of the agreement include:

* **National energy and climate plans**: Member states will submit integrated national energy and climate plans (objectives, policies and measures in all 5 areas of the Energy Union, including greenhouse gas reduction targets). These plans would cover the period 2021-2030 and would be renewed every 10 years
* **Renewable energy target**: The Council introduced three benchmarks in RES indicative trajectory for Member States to ensure the EU achieves its renewables’ target of 27% by 2030. A certain percentage of the final RES target need to be complied with to ensure progress is consistent and achievable: 24% in 2023, 40% in 2025 and 60% in 2027 applicable at both EU and Member State levels
* **Interconnection target:** Reinforced measures to achieve the interconnections target of 15% by 2030 for all Member States and key criteria to assess the need for increased interconnection capacity
* **Reporting**: Member States will submit their integrated national energy and climate progress reports **every two years**. The Commission will monitor progress and make recommendations if needed

On 17 January 2018, the European Parliament plenary session adopted the [report](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONSGML%2bTA%2bP8-TA-2018-0011%2b0%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN) by co-rapporteurs Turmes and Rivasi (Greens) with 466 votes in favour.

MEPs have introduced a “carbon budget” that aims at bringing the EU to a zero- carbon economy by 2050 and complies with the 1.5 and 2 degrees limits set out in the Paris Climate Agreement. According to the Regulation, EU Member States are required to submit their draft Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans by the end of 2018. If the carbon budget passes the trialogue negotiation process between Council, Parliament and Commission, the Commission would need to act swiftly to calculate the remaining EU carbon budget in view of the drafting of the Member States plans.

Trilogue negotiations on the regulation started on 21 February 2018. The Bulgarian Council Presidency expressed its willingness to complete the negotiations in the first semester of 2018.

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Energy Efficiency

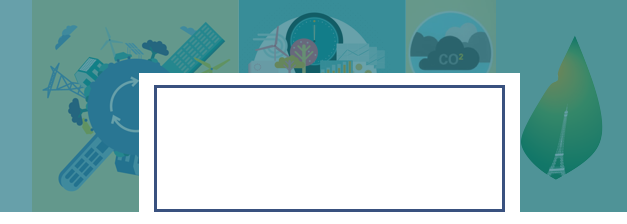
ENERGY || ISSUES OF GENERAL INTEREST

**Energy Efficiency Directive**

The European Parliament adopted the [report](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONSGML%2bREPORT%2bA8-2017-0391%2b0%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN) on the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive by rapporteur Poche on 17 January. The EU Council adopted its [position](http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-10536-2017-INIT/en/pdf) in June last year, however Member States remain divided on the level of ambition. The trilogue negotiations on the Energy Efficiency Directive to find common ground between European Parliament, Council and European Commission started on 22 February. The Bulgarian Presidency is expected to support a 30% non-binding target of energy efficiency by 2030, in contrast to the 35% binding target supported by the Parliament. A group of seven countries led by France will support a 30% binding target.

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DECARBONISATION & CLIMATE CHANGE

## **Revision of the Regulation on fluorinated gases (F-gas Regulation)**

The 3rd meeting of the F-gas Consultation Forum (established by the F-gas Regulation) will take place on 6 March 2018 in Brussels. The meeting will focus on the following items:

* Standard setting for flammable refrigerants
* Information on training of personal for safe handling of alternative refrigerants
* Information on the progress of the HFC phase-down
* Information on the next implementation steps

In advance of the meeting, the European Commission has circulated a Briefing Paper on Progress of the Phase-Down. It is available from the [Secretariat](mailto:olivier.janin@orgalime.org).

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ISSUES OF GENERAL INTEREST

## **Revision of EU Emissions Trading Scheme**

On 6 February 2018, the European Parliament approved in plenary session the report on the Revision of the EU ETS for the period after 2020. The revision seeks to strike a balance between being ambitious and preventing energy-intensive industries from moving abroad to avoid regulation. It introduces measures to limit excess allowances and increase carbon price. A week after the vote, on 14 February, the price to emit a tonne of CO2 briefly hit €10 for the first time since 2011.

* **Low-carbon Innovation Fund**

The Commission aims at establishing this Innovation Fund via a delegated act foreseen in the Revised ETS Directive. Following consultation meetings in 2017 with the energy intensive industry and renewables generation and energy storage (see summary report [here](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/events/docs/0115/20170612_report_en.pdf)), the Commission has launched a [public consultation](https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/InnovationFund2017?surveylanguage=EN) to establish a Fund for low-carbon technology innovation in energy intensive industry sectors and renewables generation, storage and carbon capture and storage. The consultation is open until 10 April 2018.

* **Legislation on the Non-ETS sector “Effort-sharing” Regulation**

On 17 January, EU ambassadors gave their support to the provisional agreement reached between the Council and the European Parliament in December 2017 on the effort sharing Regulation. The regulation aims to ensure that the non-ETS sectors emissions reduction target of 30% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels is reached in the effort sharing sectors, including buildings, agriculture (non-CO2 emissions), waste management and transport (excluding aviation and international shipping). See the Council [press release](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/12/21/provisional-deal-on-effort-sharing-emissions-another-big-step-towards-paris-targets/) for further information on the agreement.

* **UK Withdrawal from EU ETS**

Following the endorsement by the Climate Change Committee in December 2017 and the non-objection adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, the Commission formally adopted on 12 February 2018 the [amendment to the EU ETS Registry Regulation](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/news/20171024_regulation_en.pdf) to implement safeguard measures to protect the environmental integrity of the EU ETS when Union law ceases to apply in the United Kingdom due to its withdrawal from the European Union.

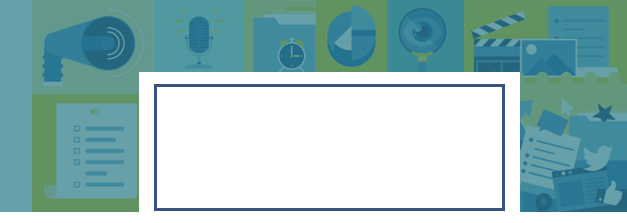
In practice, as of 1 January 2018, any ETS allowances issued (auctioned or allocated for free) by the UK are marked to distinguish them from other allowances.

DECARBONISATION & CLIMATE CHANGE || ISSUES OF GENERAL INTEREST

More information is available [here](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/update-safeguard-measures-eu-emissions-trading-system-due-uks-withdrawal-european-union_en).

**Author :**

Laure Dulière



PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS

## PUBLICATIONS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| AUTHOR | DATE | TITLE |
| CEN-CENELEC | December 2017 | [CEN-CENELEC Work Programme 2017](https://www.cencenelec.eu/news/publications/Publications/WorkProgramme-2018_UK_acces.pdf) |
| ECIPE | January 2018 | Study - [Blockchain and Trade: Not a Fix for Brexit, but Could Revolutionise Global Value Chains (If Governments Let It)](http://ecipe.org/publications/blockchain-and-trade/) |
| European Commission | January 2018 | Study – [Assessing the Impacts of EU Regulatory Barriers on Innovation](https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/076b7f4b-f1cb-11e7-9749-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-60213516) |
| European Commission | January 2018 | Study – [Blockchain in Energy Communities](https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/5357a4de-fccc-11e7-b8f5-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-62195404) |
| European Commission | January 2018 | Study – [NanoData impact assessment: Nanotechnology for energy](https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/197427c8-fccc-11e7-b8f5-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-62962419) |
| European Commission | January 2018 | Study – [SMEs, resource efficiency and green markets](https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/3e0eeaef-0259-11e8-b8f5-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-63232372) |
| European Parliament | January 2018 | Study – [Renewable Energy Directive](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/614201/IPOL_STU(2018)614201_EN.pdf) |
| European Parliament | January 2018 | Briefing – [Limits on exposure to carcinogens and mutagens at work](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/614670/EPRS_BRI(2018)614670_EN.pdf) |
| European Parliament | January 2018 | Study – [Digital skills in the EU labour market](https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/cb9ff359-e2c9-11e6-ad7c-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-63232372) |
| European Parliament | January 2018 | Briefing – [Mutual Recognition of goods](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/614671/EPRS_BRI(2018)614671_EN.pdf) |
| Eurostat | January 2018 | News release - [Share of RES in energy consumption in EU](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/8612324/8-25012018-AP-EN.pdf/9d28caef-1961-4dd1-a901-af18f121fb2d) |
| European Commission | February 2018 | Study - [Towards a better exploitation of the technical potential of waste-to-energy](https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/f34b544f-c1cf-11e6-a6db-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-65039669) |
| European Commission | February 2018 | Study - [Promoting healthy and energy efficient buildings in the European Union](https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/905ef20b-d003-11e7-a7df-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-65039669) |
| European Parliament | February 2018 | Briefing - [Strengthening market surveillance of harmonised industrial products](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/614696/EPRS_BRI(2018)614696_EN.pdf) |
| Eurostat | February 2018 | News release - [EU Energy Consumption in 2016](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/8643581/8-05022018-BP-EN.pdf/1338cf55-5c91-4179-a6ca-808675e40bbd) |

PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS

## EVENTS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ORGANISER | DATE | NAME & LOCATION |
| EUROSOLAR together with the Energy Storage Europe (ESE) Conference and Exhibition, organized by Messe Düsseldorf. | 13-15 March | [12th International Renewable Energy Storage Conference 2018 (IRES 2018)](http://www.energystorageconference.org/)  Düsseldorf, Germany |
| European Economic and Social Committee | 20 March | [European Consumer Day 2018](https://europa.eu/newsroom/events/european-consumer-day-2018_en)  Sofia, Bulgaria |
| American Council for an Energy Efficiency (ACEEE) | 20-22 March | [ACEEE's Hot Water Forum (HWF)](http://aceee.org/conferences/2018/hwf)  Portland, Oregon |
| WssTP | 21 March | [Water Market Europe 2018](https://watermarketeurope.eu/)  Brussels, Belgium |
| European Commission, JRC | 21-22 March | [10th international conference on Improving Energy Efficiency in Commercial Buildings and Smart Communities (IEECB&SC’18)](https://e3p.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/10th-international-conference-improving-energy-efficiency-commercial-buildings-and-smart)  Frankfurt, Germany |
| ECHA | 10-11 April | [Workshop on EUSES update needs](https://echa.europa.eu/-/workshop-on-euses-update-needs)  Helsinki, Finland |
| Bruegel | 23 April | [Challenges and opportunities for the EU digital single market](http://bruegel.org/events/challenges-and-opportunities-for-the-eu-digital-single-market/)  Brussels, Belgium |
| European Commission | 21-25 May | [Green Cities for a Greener Future](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/events/green-cities-greener-future)  Brussels, Belgium |

PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS

## CALLS/ CONSULTATIONS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| COMMISSION DG | CONSULTATION | CALLS |
| GROW | [LINK](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/public-consultations/) | [LINK](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/contracts-grants/calls-for-tenders/) |
| ENVIRONMENT | [LINK](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations_en.htm) | [LINK](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/calls_en.htm) |
| ENERGY | [LINK](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/consultations) | [LINK](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy/tenders/2010_en.htm) |
| TRADE | [LINK](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/consultations/) | [LINK](http://ec.europa.eu/trade/trade-policy-and-you/calls-for-tender/) |
| RESEARCH | [LINK](https://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/index.cfm?pg=list) | [LINK](http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=tenders-open) |

