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Brussels, 2 February 2022

RÉUNION DU COLLÈGE : Taxinomie de l'UE - la Commission présente un acte délégué complémentaire relatif aux objectifs climatiques, pour accélérer la décarbonation

La Commission européenne a présenté aujourd'hui un [acte délégué complémentaire relatif aux objectifs climatiques](#) de la taxinomie qui couvre certaines activités des secteurs du gaz et du nucléaire au regard de l'atténuation du changement climatique et de l'adaptation au changement climatique. Le collège des commissaires est parvenu à un accord politique sur le texte, qui sera officiellement adopté une fois traduit dans toutes les langues de l'UE. Pour atteindre la neutralité climatique d'ici à 2050, l'UE a besoin d'un volume très important d'investissements privés. La [taxinomie de l'UE](#) vise à orienter les investissements privés vers les activités nécessaires pour parvenir à la neutralité climatique. En particulier, l'acte délégué complémentaire relatif aux objectifs climatiques présenté aujourd'hui : (1) fait entrer de nouvelles activités économiques, relevant du secteur de l'énergie, dans le champ d'application de la taxinomie de l'UE ; (2) impose aux entreprises exerçant des activités dans les secteurs du gaz et du nucléaire des obligations d'information spécifiques pour ces activités. Une fois traduit dans toutes les langues officielles de l'UE, l'acte délégué complémentaire sera officiellement transmis aux colégislateurs pour examen. Une fois la période d'examen terminée et si aucun des colégislateurs n'a exprimé d'objection, l'acte délégué complémentaire entrera en vigueur et s'appliquera à partir du 1er janvier 2023. Un [communiqué de presse](#), un document [questions-réponses](#) et une [fiche d'information](#) sont disponibles en ligne. (Pour plus d'informations: Daniel Ferrie – Tél.: +32 229 86500; Aikaterini Apostola – Tél.: +32 229 87624)

RÉUNION DU COLLÈGE : Initiative citoyenne européenne - la Commission décide d'enregistrer une initiative sur le football et le sport en Europe

La Commission a décidé aujourd'hui d'enregistrer une initiative citoyenne européenne (ICE) intitulée « [Win It On The Pitch](#) ». Les organisateurs de cette initiative appellent la Commission à protéger un modèle sportif européen « fondé sur les valeurs, la solidarité, la durabilité et des compétitions ouvertes ». Ils lui demandent d'adopter une recommandation qui fournira un cadre et des lignes directrices pour guider l'action des États membres en vue de « protéger le modèle du football en Europe, de reconnaître la valeur sociale du sport dans la société européenne et la nature particulière du sport dans les règles de concurrence de l'UE et de renforcer la vision et la politique à long terme de l'UE concernant l'avenir et la gouvernance du sport européen ». La demande d'enregistrement de l'ICE remplissant les conditions formelles établies dans la législation applicable, la Commission considère qu'elle est recevable sur le plan juridique. À ce stade, la Commission n'a pas analysé l'initiative sur le fond. Un communiqué de presse est disponible [en ligne](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Christian Wigand - Tél.: +32 229 62253; Katarzyna Kolanko - Tél.: +32 229 63444; Jördis Ferrolí - Tél.: +32 229 92729)

Urban mobility: New guidance on regulating taxis and private hire vehicles for more sustainable, accessible and fair services

The Commission adopted today a [guidance notice](#) for national and local authorities on regulating taxis and private hire vehicles. It clarifies how internal market rules should be applied to taxis and private hire vehicles, and how appropriate regulation can make these services more sustainable, accessible, and fair. For instance, the guidance advises against regulation leading to empty runs, such as an obligation for private hire vehicles to return to garage in between rides or geographical restrictions that prevent drivers from taking passengers on return trips from remote locations. It encourages 'pooling' of passengers, more sustainable vehicle fleets, and integration with public transport and active mobility. It also emphasises that requirements to become a driver and operating conditions should be simple and proportionate. Commissioner for Transport, Adina **Vălean**, said: "Integration with public mobility, less empty runs and encouraging pooling of passengers are all part

of today's guidance. With it we try to ensure good service for customers across Europe as well as fair, safe and more sustainable operations." The guidance helps advance the [European Green Deal](#) and the [Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy](#). It is one of the first deliverables of the [new EU urban mobility framework](#) presented in December 2021. More information is available [here](#). (For more information: Adalbert Jahnz – Tel.: +32 229 53156; Anna Wartberger – Tel.: +32 229 82054)

Mobilité intelligente : de nouvelles règles pour davantage de données sur le trafic en temps réel dans l'UE

La Commission étend aujourd'hui la disponibilité des données sur le trafic en temps réel à l'échelle de l'UE en modifiant les [règles existantes](#) dans ce domaine. Actuellement, les autorités routières et les exploitants ont l'obligation de mettre à disposition ces données sur le réseau routier transeuropéen, les autoroutes et d'autres zones prioritaires. La révision adoptée aujourd'hui étendra cette obligation aux routes régionales et urbaines et ajoutera de nouveaux types de données, telles que les restrictions d'accès aux véhicules dans certaines sections urbaines. Elle s'appliquera à partir de janvier 2025. Ces mesures contribueront à améliorer les services d'information existants, à ouvrir la voie à de nouveaux services innovants pour les usagers de la route et à fournir aux autorités de nouvelles informations pour une meilleure gestion des infrastructures. La commissaire chargée des transports, Adina **Vălean**, a déclaré : « *De meilleures données sur le trafic en temps réel sont une condition préalable à l'amélioration de notre mobilité. Les règles que nous adoptons aujourd'hui augmenteront la couverture et la portée de ces données et contribueront à rendre les transports dans toute l'UE plus fluides, plus intelligents et plus durables.* » La mesure d'aujourd'hui a été annoncée dans le cadre de la [Stratégie pour une mobilité durable et intelligente](#), qui contribue à faire progresser le [Pacte vert pour l'Europe](#). De plus amples informations sont disponibles [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Adalbert Jahnz – Tél.: +32 229 53156; Anna Wartberger – Tél.: +32 229 82054)

Europol : La Commission se félicite de l'accord politique relatif au mandat renforcé

La Commission se félicite de l'accord politique intervenu hier entre le Parlement européen et le Conseil relatif au mandat renforcé d'Europol, l'Agence de l'Union européenne pour la coopération des services répressifs. Dans le cadre de ce mandat renforcé, Europol sera en mesure d'accroître le soutien qu'elle apporte aux États membres pour ce qui est de lutter contre les formes graves de criminalité et le terrorisme et contre les menaces émergentes en matière de sécurité. Europol sera en mesure de coopérer efficacement avec des entités ou personnes privées. Les dispositions actualisées fixent également des règles claires concernant le traitement d'ensembles de données vastes et complexes, et permettent à l'Agence de mettre au point des technologies nouvelles qui répondent aux besoins des services répressifs. Ces changements s'accompagnent d'un renforcement du cadre de protection des données ainsi que du contrôle parlementaire et de la responsabilité. Le règlement doit à présent être adopté formellement par le Parlement européen et par le Conseil. Un communiqué de presse est disponible [en ligne](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Anitta Hipper - Tél.: +32 229 85691; Laura Bérard - Tél.: +32 229 55721; Ciara Bottomley - Tél.: +32 229 69971)

State aid: Commission approves €1.7 billion German measure to recapitalise Flughafen Berlin Brandenburg in the context of the coronavirus pandemic

The European Commission has approved German plans to grant up to €1.7 billion for the recapitalisation of Flughafen Berlin Brandenburg GmbH ('FBB'). The measure was approved under the State aid [Temporary Framework](#). Due to the coronavirus outbreak and the travel restrictions, FBB suffered substantial losses while still facing significant operational costs. As a result, the equity and liquidity position of the company deteriorated. In this context, Germany notified to the Commission, under the [Temporary Framework](#), its plans to grant up to €1.7 billion for the recapitalisation of FBB by allowing its public shareholders, the Länder Berlin and Brandenburg and the Federal Republic of Germany, to inject the capital into FBB's capital reserve. FBB will use part of the aid to repay the subsidized interest loans granted under a previous scheme that the Commission approved in [August 2020\(SA.57644\)](#). The Commission concluded that the recapitalisation measure is necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State, in line with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU and the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. The measure aims at restoring the financial position and liquidity of FBB in the exceptional situation caused by the coronavirus pandemic, while maintaining the necessary safeguards to limit competition distortions. On this basis, the Commission approved the measures under EU State aid rules. Executive Vice-President Margrethe **Vestager**, in charge of competition policy, said: "Airports have been hit particularly hard by the coronavirus outbreak and the travel restrictions in place. With this measure, Germany will contribute to reinforcing Flughafen Berlin Brandenburg's equity position

and help the company face the economic effects of the outbreak. At the same time, the public support will come with strings attached to limit undue distortions of competition. We continue working in close cooperation with Member States to ensure that national support measures can be put in place as quickly and effectively as possible, in line with EU rules." A press release is available [online](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

State aid: Commission approves €22.4 million Italian scheme to support companies holding port concessions affected by the coronavirus pandemic

The European Commission has approved a €22.4 million Italian scheme to support port authorities in the context of the coronavirus pandemic. The scheme was approved under the State Aid [Temporary Framework](#). Under the scheme, the public support will take the form of direct grants. The measure will be open to companies holding port concessions in Italy that have experienced a significant decline in turnover in 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic and the restrictive measures put in place to limit the spread of the virus. The purpose of the scheme is to help the beneficiaries address their liquidity needs and continue their activities during and after the pandemic. The Commission found that the Italian scheme is in line with the conditions of the Temporary Framework. In particular, the aid (i) will not exceed €2.3 million per company; and (ii) will be granted no later than 30 June 2022. The Commission concluded that the measure is necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State, in line with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU and the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. On this basis, the Commission approved the scheme under EU State aid rules. More information on the Temporary Framework and other actions taken by the Commission to address the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic can be found [here](#). The non-confidential version of the decision will be made available under the case number SA.101055 in the [State aid register](#) on the Commission's [competition](#) website once any confidentiality issues have been resolved. (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of athenahealth Group by Bain Capital and Hellman & Friedman

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control of athenahealth Group Inc. by Bain Capital Investors L.L.C. and Hellman & Friedman LLC, all of the US. athenahealth Group provides cloud-based medical records, revenue cycle, patient engagement, care coordination, and population health services, as well as point-of-care mobile applications. Bain Capital and Hellman & Friedman are both private equity investment firms that invest in companies across a number of sectors worldwide. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because athenahealth Group does not have any activities in the European Economic Area. Furthermore, the transaction will not give rise to any horizontal overlaps or vertical links between the activities of athenahealth Group on the one hand, and the activities of Bain Capital and Hellman & Friedman on the other hand. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.10576](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

APPOINTMENTS

COLLEGE MEETING: The European Commission appoints a new Director-General in its department for informatics

The European Commission has decided today to transfer Veronica Gaffey to the function of Director-General of the Directorate-General for Informatics (DG DIGIT). DG DIGIT is the Commission department responsible for providing digital services that support other Commission services and EU institutions in their daily work and that help public administrations across the EU harmonise their work. The date of effect of this appointment is 1 March 2022. In her new position, Veronica Gaffey will build on her thorough understanding of IT solutions management and provision as well as on her robust management skills in delivering on the commitments of the European Commission Digital

Strategy. Veronica Gaffey, an Irish national, has over 20 years of experience in the Commission. She is currently Chair of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board. Previously, she headed the Administration and Payment of Individual Entitlements Office, ensuring that its IT systems delivered for the staff of the European Institutions and ensuring that the staff there delivered a client centred service. She also occupied several management positions in the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), having been Director of 'Budget and General Affairs' and Acting Director of 'Policy Development'. Earlier in her career, she also headed the units 'Evaluation and European Semester' and 'Innovative Actions' in the same DG. Before joining the Commission in 2000, she worked as a manager at the European Social Fund Evaluation Unit in the Ministry of Enterprise and Employment in Ireland. (For more information: Balazs Ujvari - Tel.: +32 229 54578; Claire Joawn - Tel.: +32 229 56859)

COLLEGE MEETING: The European Commission appoints a new Deputy Director-General in its Legal service

The European Commission has decided today to appoint Clemens Ladenburger as Deputy Director-General of the Legal Service, in charge of Quality of Legislation, Infringements and Information. The role of the Legal Service is to provide legal advice to the Commission and its services, and to represent the Commission in all court cases. The date of effect is to be determined later. In this new capacity, Clemens Ladenburger, a German national, will draw on his many years of experience in representing the Commission at the European Court of Justice as well as on his established management skills and excellent knowledge of the Commission's departments, EU policies and current legal issues. Clemens Ladenburger is currently Director - Principal Legal Adviser, leading the Team 'Justice, Freedom and Security, Private Law, Criminal Law'. He has been working for the Legal Service since 1999 and has occupied a range of positions, notably that of the Principal Adviser for Migration and Strategic Horizontal Matters (working mainly on Brexit) and Assistant to the Director-General of the Legal Service. Between July 2013 and March 2014, on ad personam appointment by President Barroso, he served as Secretary to the high-level 'Expert Group on Debt Redemption Fund and Eurobills'. In 2002-2003, he was a member of the Secretariat of the European Convention that drafted a Constitution for Europe, the substance of which became the Lisbon Treaty. Before joining the Commission in 1999, he was Member of the Cabinet of Jürgen Trumpf, Secretary-General of the Council, responsible for Justice and Home Affairs. (For more information: Balazs Ujvari - Tel.: +32 229 54578; Claire Joawn - Tel.: +32 229 56859)

COLLEGE MEETING: The European Commission appoints a new Deputy Director-General in its department for maritime affairs and fisheries

The European Commission has decided today to appoint Kestutis Sadauskas as Deputy Director-General for the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE). DG MARE aims to develop the potential of the European maritime economy and to secure sustainable fisheries, a stable supply of seafood, healthy seas and prosperous coastal communities – for today's Europeans and for future generations. The date of effect is to be determined later. Kestutis Sadauskas, a Lithuanian national, is endowed with excellent management and negotiation skills as well as a good knowledge of the Green Deal priorities and sustainable use of resources. He is currently Director for Circular Economy and Green Growth Activities in charge of sustainable production and consumption, chemicals, waste management. He prepared and completed the first European Circular Economy Action Plan and prepared and launched the second one. Previously, he was Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Semeta in charge of Taxation and Customs Union, Audit and Anti-Fraud. Before, he was Head of Representation in Lithuania. Prior to joining the Commission in 2006, he was Minister-Counsellor in the Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU, where he coordinated EU accession negotiations of Lithuania. (For more information: Balazs Ujvari - Tel.: +32 229 54578; Claire Joawn - Tel.: +32 229 56859)

COLLEGE MEETING: The European Commission appoints a new Deputy Director-General in its department for competition

The European Commission has decided today to appoint Ben Smulders as Deputy Director-General for State Aids Policy in the Directorate-General for Competition (DG COMP). DG COMP is responsible for EU policy on competition and for enforcing EU competition rules, in cooperation with national competition authorities. The date of effect is to be determined later. He will draw on his outstanding experience of 30 years in the Commission, his robust management skills, high-level experience in negotiating and representing the Commission in high-stake negotiations and his deep knowledge of competition law enforcement, in particular in the area of State aid. Ben Smulders, a Dutch national,

is currently Director - Principal Legal Adviser, in the Legal Service of the European Commission, heading the World Trade Organisation & Trade Policy team. Throughout the years, he has acted as Commission or EU agent in more than 100 cases relating to various fields of EU and international law before the Court of Justice and the General Court of the European Union. Throughout this career, he has worked in multiple Cabinets at the European Commission, including twice as Head of Cabinet. He was Head of Cabinet of First Vice-President **Timmermans**, responsible for better regulation, inter-institutional relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Head of Cabinet of Neelie Kroes, Commissioner for Competition. Before joining the Commission in 1990, he was advocate, member of the Amsterdam Bar, specialising in the banking & corporate law and intellectual property. (For more information: Balazs Ujvari - Tel.: +32 229 54578; Claire Joawn - Tel.: +32 229 56859)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Le vice-président Schinas et les commissaires Reynders et Johansson participent à la réunion informelle des ministres de la Justice et des Affaires intérieures

Aujourd'hui, Margaritis **Schinas**, vice-président chargé de la promotion de notre mode de vie européen, Didier **Reynders**, commissaire chargé de la justice, et Ylva **Johansson**, commissaire aux Affaires intérieures, participeront à une réunion informelle des ministres de la Justice et des Affaires intérieures à Lille, la première sous la présidence française du Conseil. Cet après-midi, une simulation dans le domaine de la cybercriminalité sera organisée, suivie d'une réception avec le président Macron dans la soirée. Demain matin, les ministres de l'Intérieur débattront de la gestion des frontières, des liens entre la protection civile et le changement climatique. Ils participeront également à un déjeuner de travail sur la lutte contre le terrorisme et la radicalisation. Dans l'après-midi, les participants débattront de la voie à suivre concernant le nouveau pacte sur la migration et l'asile. Une conférence de presse avec la commissaire **Johansson** aura lieu vers 16h30 HEC demain et sera transmise en direct sur [EbS+](#). Le vendredi 4 février, le commissaire **Reynders** et les ministres de la Justice consacreront la session de la matinée à un débat sur les priorités dans la lutte contre la tendance à la hausse des discours haineux en ligne, avec des instruments tels que l'initiative de la Commission visant à étendre la liste des crimes de l'UE aux discours haineux et aux crimes de haine. Un déjeuner de travail suivra, mettant l'accent sur la manière de mettre en place une coopération transfrontalière pour les systèmes d'alerte concernant les enfants disparus. Dans l'après-midi, les ministres débattront de la prochaine initiative de l'UE sur la reconnaissance de la parentalité entre les États membres, afin que les enfants conservent leurs droits dans toutes les situations transfrontières. Vendredi, à 16h45 heures HEC, le commissaire **Reynders** et Éric Dupond-Moretti, le ministre français de la justice, donneront une conférence de presse conjointe qui sera diffusée sur [EbS+](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Anitta Hipper - Tél.: +32 229 85691; Christian Wigand – Tél.: +32 229 62253)

Executive Vice-President Timmermans in Slovakia for talks on the green transition

Tomorrow and on Friday, Executive Vice-President **Timmermans** will be in Slovakia to discuss the transition to a climate-neutral economy and the opportunities it holds for Slovakia with policymakers, companies and civil society actors. He will meet Zuzana Čaputová, President of the Slovak Republic; Eduard Heger, Prime Minister; Veronika Remišová, Deputy Prime Minister; Richard Sulík, Minister of Economy; Ján Budaj, Minister for Environment. He will visit the Volkswagen Slovakia Factory to see the manufacturing plant, and meet with the management and representatives of the trade unions. He will also visit GA Drilling for a presentation on an innovative plasma drilling technology to access geothermal energy and to meet with the management. In the evening, the Executive Vice-President will hold a round-table discussion with greenfluencers, NGOs and Climate Pact Ambassadors. On Friday, he will hold a round-table discussion with social and economic partners on opportunities and challenges of the Green Deal, the Fit-for-55 package and the green transition in Slovakia and the role of key actors in enabling the green transition. Later in the afternoon, he will participate in the public event on '[Fit-for-55](#) Climate and Us: Youth for green Europe'. (For more information: Tim McPhie – Tel.: +32 229 58602; Lynn Rietdorf – Tel.: +32 229 74959)

Competition: Young experts conference on 'Taking Competition Policy into the Future'

Tomorrow, on 3 February, Executive Vice-President Margrethe **Vestager**, in charge of competition policy, will host '[Taking Competition Policy into the Future](#)', a half-day conference to be held in Brussels and online. The conference will serve as a forum for discussion where the future of competition policy will be debated by young experts. The conference will give the opportunity to young experts of competition policy to engage with today's established figures in the competition law sector. It will also be an opportunity for today's experts and practitioners to listen and respond to their vision, views and concerns. In addition to digital and green issues, 'Taking Competition Policy into the Future' will table a broader debate on (i) the expansion of the powers of national competition authorities and (ii) the interrelation of competition policy and Artificial Intelligence. The young speakers have been selected by an independent Scientific Committee, which is also composed of young scholars and professionals who will steer the debate. The opening remarks will be given by Executive Vice-President **Vestager**. About 370 participants from over 45 countries are expected to join and participate in the conference. The young experts conference is organised in the context of the [EU's Youth Dialogue](#). This is a dialogue mechanism between young people and decision makers taking place in the framework of the EU Youth Strategy, part of the European Year of Youth. More information on the conference is available [here](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

[Liste des points prévus](#) à l'ordre du jour des prochaines réunions de la Commission

Veillez noter que ces informations sont données sous réserve de modifications.

[Prochains événements](#) de la Commission européenne

[Eurostat](#): communiqués de presse

The Spokesperson's Service has re-opened the Berlaymont press room to a limited number of journalists. For more information, please see [here](#).

MEX/22/741