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Editorial: The European Commission handed down a record fine of €2.42 billion to Google for abusing dominance as a search engine by giving an illegal advantage to its own comparison shopping service

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Editorial:**The European Commission handed down a record fine of €2.42 billion to Google for abusing dominance as a search engine by giving an illegal advantage to its own comparison shopping service**

According to the decision of 27.06.2017 of the European Commission, Google abused its market dominance as a search engine by giving an illegal advantage to another Google product, its comparison shopping service.

More specifically, Google's flagship product is the Google search engine, a comparison shopping service which provides search results to consumers, who pay for the service with their data. Almost 90% of Google's revenues stem from adverts, such as those it shows consumers in response to a search query. Comparison shopping services rely to a large extent on traffic to be competitive. More traffic leads to more clicks and generates revenue. Furthermore, more traffic also attracts more retailers that want to list their products with a comparison shopping service. Given Google's dominance in general internet search, its search engine is an important source of traffic for comparison shopping services.

According to the decision of the European Commission at hand, from 2008, Google began to implement in European markets a strategy in order to push its comparison shopping service, relying on Google's dominance in general internet search, instead of competition on the merits in comparison shopping markets. In specific, the European Commission found that:

- Google systematically has given prominent placement to its own comparison shopping service;
- Google has demoted rival comparison shopping services in its search results: rival comparison shopping services appear in Google's search results on the basis of Google's generic search algorithms.

As a result, Google's comparison shopping service is much more visible to consumers in Google's search results, whilst rival comparison shopping services are much less visible.

Consequently, according to the decision of the European Commission at hand, Google's practices amount to an abuse of Google's dominant position in general internet search by stifling competition in comparison shopping markets. As such, the European Commission fined Google €2.42 billion for breaching EU antitrust rules. Google must now end the conduct within 90 days or

face penalty payments of up to 5% of the average daily worldwide turnover of Alphabet, Google's parent company.

To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1784) click [here](#). To read the full factsheet of the European Commission (MEMO-17-1785) click [here](#). To read the full statement of Commissioner Vestager (STATEMENT-17-1806) click [here](#).

Antitrust

Advocate General Szpunar of the CJEU recommended dismissing appeal against General Court's judgment in TV and Computer Monitor Tubes cartel case

On 18.05.2017, Advocate General Szpunar of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) recommended dismissing appeals lodged by LG Electronics and Philips against judgments delivered by the General Court of the European Union (GC) in relation to the TV and Computer Monitor Tubes cartel case (Joined cases C-588/15 P, LG Electronics v Commission and C-622/15 P, Koninklijke Philips Electronics v Commission). To read the full Opinion of the Advocate General of the CJEU in Joined cases C-588/15 P and C-622/15 P click [here](#).

GC: Judgment issued in Case T-480/15 (Agria Polska and Others vs European Commission)

By its judgment in Case T-480/15 (Agria Polska and Others vs European Commission), the GC confirmed the European Commission's authority to reject complaints on priority grounds, which the Commission bases on the existing case-law of the EU courts. On 19 June 2015 the Commission had rejected a complaint submitted by Polish resellers of plant protection products against German and Austrian competitors, claiming to be the victims of a concerted campaign by these companies to drive them out of the market. The Commission rejected the complaint for lack of EU interest, on the basis of a low likelihood of finding an infringement and further investigation being disproportionate. To read the full judgment of the GC in Case T-480/15 click [here](#).

The European Commission opened formal investigation into distribution practices of clothing company Guess

The European Commission opened a formal antitrust investigation into the distribution agreements and practices of clothing manufacturer

and retailer Guess. The Commission will examine whether Guess illegally restricts retailers from selling cross-border to consumers within the EU Single Market. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1549) click [here](#).

The European Commission opened formal investigations into Nike's, Sanrio's and Universal Studios' licensing and distribution practices

The European Commission launched three separate antitrust investigations into whether certain licensing and distribution practices of Nike, Sanrio and Universal Studios illegally restrict traders from selling licensed merchandise cross-border and online within the EU Single Market. The Commission will investigate whether the three companies, in their role as licensors of rights for merchandising products, may have breached EU competition rules by restricting their licensees' ability to sell licensed merchandise cross-border and online. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1646) click [here](#).

The European Commission fined three car lighting system producers €27 million in cartel settlement

The European Commission fined Automotive Lighting and Hella a

total of €27 million for participating in a cartel concerning the supply of vehicle lighting systems in the European Economic Area. The cartel related to the supply of vehicle lighting systems to manufacturers of passenger and commercial vehicles after the end of mass production of a car model. All companies acknowledged their involvement and agreed to settle. Automotive Lighting and Hella benefited from reductions of their fines for their cooperation with the Commission investigation. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1741) click [here](#).

The European Commission fined Facebook €110 million for providing misleading information about WhatsApp takeover

The European Commission fined Facebook €110 million for providing incorrect or misleading information during the Commission's 2014 investigation under the EU Merger Regulation of Facebook's acquisition of WhatsApp. When Facebook notified the acquisition of WhatsApp in 2014, it informed the Commission that it would be unable to establish reliable automated matching between Facebook users' accounts and WhatsApp users' accounts.

However, in August 2016, WhatsApp announced updates to its terms of service and privacy policy, including the possibility of linking WhatsApp users' phone numbers with Facebook users' identities. On 20 December 2016, the Commission addressed a Statement of Objections to Facebook detailing its concerns. The Commission found that, contrary to Facebook's statements in the 2014 merger review process, the technical possibility of automatically matching Facebook and WhatsApp users' identities already existed in 2014, and that Facebook staff were aware of such a possibility. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1369) click [here](#).

The European Commission published its Annual Report on Competition Policy 2016

To read the full report of the European Commission click [here](#).

The European Commission re-imposed €4.7 million fine on envelopes manufacturer Printeos for price-fixing cartel

The European Commission readopted a cartel settlement decision against the envelopes manufacturer Printeos (formerly known as Tompla) and imposed a

fine of €4 729 000 for its participation in a price fixing cartel. Printeos and four other manufacturers agreed to settle the case in December 2014. In December 2016, the GC annulled the fine against Printeos due to lack of sufficient reasoning concerning discretionary fine reductions. The judgment did not question Printeos' liability for the cartel, which the company had itself acknowledged in the settlement procedure. The decision of the European Commission at hand addressed the procedural error identified by the GC and re-imposed a fine on Printeos. The new fine is identical to the fine imposed in the original decision. To read the relevant press release of the European Commission click [here](#).

The European Commission accepted commitments from Amazon on e-books

The European Commission adopted a decision that rendered legally binding the commitments offered by Amazon on e-books. Amazon has committed that it will no longer enforce or introduce certain clauses in its distribution agreements with e-book publishers in Europe, which may have hindered innovation and competition in European e-books

markets. These commitments will contribute to fair competition in the platform economy. The commitments apply for a period of 5 years and to any e-book in any language distributed by Amazon in the European Economic Area. If Amazon were to breach the commitments, the Commission could impose a fine of up to 10% of Amazon's total annual turnover, without having to find a violation of the EU competition rules. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1223) click [here](#).

Greece: the HCC published its decision on the tenders for the awarding of public projects in the Prefecture of Pella, in violation of article 1 of Law 3959/2011(cartel)

For the violations of the undertakings involved, the Hellenic Competition Commission (HCC) decided to impose on the undertakings a total fine of 805.591,00 Euros, taking exceptionally into consideration the prolonged financial crisis which has harmed, among others, the construction sector. To read the full press release of the HCC please visit the website of the [HCC](#).

France: The General Rapporteur of the Autorité de la concurrence confirmed that unannounced inspections were carried out in the processing of animal remains sector

Following authorisation from the liberty and custody judge, the investigation services of the Autorité de la concurrence raided the premises of companies suspected of having engaged in possible anticompetitive practices in the processing of animal remains sector. Such interventions do not pre-suppose the existence of a breach of the law which could be imputed to the companies involved in the alleged practices, which only a full investigation into the merits of the case could establish, if appropriate. To read the full press release of the Autorité de la concurrence click [here](#).

Mergers

The European Commission approved merger between chemical producers Reichhold and Polynt, subject to conditions

The European Commission approved under the EU Merger Regulation the merger between chemical producers Reichhold (US) and Polynt (Italy). Both produce unsaturated polyester

resins, used to make reinforced plastics. The decision is conditional on divestment of Reichhold's Etain plant in France. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1278) click [here](#).

The European Commission cleared acquisition of Brocade by Broadcom, subject to conditions

The European Commission cleared under the EU Merger Regulation the proposed acquisition of networking products supplier Brocade (US) by semiconductor manufacturer Broadcom (US/Singapore), subject to conditions on interoperability and protection of competitors' confidential information. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1309) click [here](#).

The European Commission cleared acquisition of Vanderlande by Toyota

The European Commission approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of Vanderlande of the Netherlands by Toyota of Japan. Vanderlande manufactures and sells automation equipment for airports, warehousing and parcel handling. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would

raise no competition concerns because the companies are not active in the same markets and because market shares in all vertically linked markets remain limited. To read the relevant press release of the European Commission click [here](#).

The European Commission opened in-depth investigation into Qualcomm's proposed acquisition of NXP

The European Commission opened an in-depth investigation to assess the proposed acquisition of NXP by Qualcomm under the EU Merger Regulation. The Commission had concerns that the transaction could lead to higher prices, less choice and reduced innovation in the semiconductor industry. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1592) click [here](#).

The European Commission cleared acquisition of joint control over LogPay Transport Services by LogPay Financial and Volkswagen Financial Services

The European Commission approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of joint control over LogPay Transport Services by LogPay Financial and Volkswagen Financial Services, all

of Germany. LogPay Transport Services issues fuel and road toll credit cards for commercial customers under the brand LogPay. LogPay Financial is a factoring company with focus on companies in the logistics sector and Volkswagen Financial Services is the financial services arm of the Volkswagen Group. Its subsidiary, Carmobility GmbH is active in the issuing of fuel and service credit and debit cards for commercial customers under the brands MAN Card and NEOPLAN Card. To read the relevant press release of the European Commission click [here](#).

The European Commission cleared acquisition of a shopping mall in Leipzig by Ares and Baupost

The European Commission approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of the Nova Eventis shopping mall in Leipzig, Germany by Ares Management, L.P. (Ares) and the Baupost Group, L.L.C (Baupost), both of the USA. To read the relevant press release of the European Commission click [here](#).

The European Commission cleared the acquisition of MPS by Westrock

The European Commission approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of sole

control by WestRock Company (USA) over Multi Packaging Solutions International Limited ("MPS", Bermuda). MPS is active in the manufacture and sale of specialty packaging solutions, such as premium folding cartons, mainly for pharmaceutical goods, consumer goods and media purposes, and rigid packaging for perfumes and spirits. The transaction was examined under the normal Phase I merger review procedure. To read the relevant press release of the European Commission click [here](#).

The European Commission cleared creation of cinema advertising joint venture by UCI Italia and TSC

The European Commission approved under the EU Merger Regulation the creation of a joint venture that will be active in cinema advertising between UCI Italia and The Space Cinema 1 ("TSC"), both of Italy. The Commission concluded that the proposed transaction would not raise competition concerns because a number of strong competitors will remain on the market for cinema advertising services to which competing cinemas could sell their advertising space. To read the relevant press release of the European Commission click [here](#).

The European Commission cleared acquisition of S&T by Ennoconn

The European Commission approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of S&T of Austria by Ennoconn of Taiwan. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would not raise competition concerns because the companies' activities are mostly complementary and S&T has a limited presence in the markets for embedded systems and smart grid solutions. To read the relevant press release of the European Commission click [here](#).

Greece: Notification of the overseeing representative for the monitoring of the terms and conditions for the approval by the HCC of the Sklavenitis – Marinopoulos Concentration

Further to the approval of the acquisition by Sklavenitis over parts of the Marinopoulos Group, the company "SOL CONSULTING S.A" was appointed representative for the monitoring of the terms and conditions for the approval by the Hellenic Competition Commission (HCC) of said notified concentration. To read the full press release of the HCC please visit the website of the [HCC](#).

Greece: On 22.5.2017, the concentration by means of which the company "ELASTRON S.A." and the company "THRACE PLASTICS CO S.A." shall establish a joint undertaking through the merger of their wholly-owned subsidiaries, "ELASTRON AGROTIKI S.A." and "THERMOKIPIA THRAKIS S.A.", respectively, was notified to the HCC

To read the full press release of the HCC please visit the website of the [HCC](#).

Greece: Examination of the prior notification of the concentration of undertakings concerning the acquisition of joint control over the company "MEVGAL S.A" by the company "DELTA TROFIMA S.A" and the Chatzakos family

The plenary of the HCC shall convene on 11.07.2017 in order to examine whether or not said notified concentration complies with the competition requirements in the affected markets. To read the full press release of the HCC please visit the website of the [HCC](#).

Greece: Decision No. 638/2017 of the HCC was published in the Government Gazette

Decision No. 638/2017 of the HCC concerning the acquisition of

complete control over the company “NIKAS S.A” by “CHIPITA S.A.” was published in the Government Gazette (Issue 1567B'/08.05.2017). To read the full decision No. 638/2017 as published in the Government Gazette click [here](#).

Germany: the Bundeskartellamt cleared EDEKA/Budnikowsky cooperation

The Bundeskartellamt cleared the launch of a joint venture between EDEKA and Budnikowsky. With 49.6 billion euros turnover EDEKA is the largest food retailer in Germany. Budnikowsky is a drugstore company with 181 outlets in the Hamburg metropolitan area and a turnover of approx. 480 million euros. To read the full press release of the Bundeskartellamt click [here](#).

State Aid

CJEU: Tax exemptions for the Catholic Church in Spain may constitute unlawful state aid if and to the extent to which they are granted for economic activities

By its judgment in Case C-74/16 (Congregación de Escuelas Pías Provincia Betania v Ayuntamiento de Getafe), the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) ruled that certain tax exemptions for the

Catholic Church in Spain may be unlawful state aid. The case in question involved a tax refund for a Spanish Catholic school. To read the full press release of the CJEU (No. 71/2017) click [here](#).

CJEU: the Advocate General of the CJEU issued his opinion in Case C-300/16P (European Commission v. Frucona Košice a.s.)

On 03.05.2017, the Advocate General of the CJEU issued his opinion in Case C-300/16P (European Commission v. Frucona Košice a.s.). The case at hand concerned the following question: when and how is the Commission to apply the so-called ‘private operator test’? More specifically, this case turned on the extent of the Commission’s obligations in applying that test and in assessing the behaviour of a public authority that has the status of creditor vis-à-vis the beneficiary of the alleged aid. The Advocate General proposed in the case in question that the CJEU should dismiss the appeal and order the Commission to pay the costs. To read the full opinion of the Advocate General of the CJEU in Case C-300/16P click [here](#).

The European Commission approved the sale of three Italian bridge banks to UBI Banca

The European Commission approved under EU state aid rules the sale of three Italian bridge banks Nuova Banca Marche, Nuova Banca Etruria and Nuova Carichieti to Unione di Banche Italiane (UBI Banca). To read the relevant press release of the European Commission click [here](#).

The European Commission opened investigation into proposed public financing of Jaguar Land Rover plant in Slovakia

The European Commission opened an in-depth investigation to assess whether Slovakia's plans to grant €125 million to Jaguar Land Rover for investing in a car plant in Nitra (Slovakia) are in line with EU rules on regional state aid, i.e. the Commission's 2014 Regional State Aid Guidelines. The Commission had doubts whether the measure incentivises private investment, as required under the Guidelines. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1450) click [here](#).

The European Commission found Poland's tax on the retail sector in breach of EU rules

The European Commission found that a Polish tax on the retail sector is in breach of EU state aid rules. The Commission concluded that the progressive tax rates based on turnover give companies with low turnover an advantage over their competitors. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1861) click [here](#).

The European Commission and China started dialogue on state aid control

European Commissioner Margrethe Vestager, in charge of competition policy, and He Lifeng, Chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to start a dialogue on state aid control. Commissioner Vestager, responsible for competition policy, commented: "Decisions by one country to grant a subsidy to a company that operates globally may affect competition elsewhere. The European Commission is pleased to start a discussion with China on how to best handle state intervention in the economy." To read the full

press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1520) click [here](#).

The European Commission approved Slovak support of €36 million for the construction of the national football stadium in Bratislava

The European Commission approved under EU state aid rules Slovakia's plans to grant in total €35.96 million of public support to the construction of the national football stadium in Bratislava. The Bratislava stadium will comply with the UEFA category 4 requirements. The stadium will be available to professional teams, including the Slovak national football team and a first league football club, but also to non-professional clubs, sports unions, schools and citizens for sportive, social and cultural events. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1451) click [here](#).

The European Commission concluded sale of Slovak healthcare centre in Turzovka involves no aid

The European Commission found that the sale below market price of the public healthcare centre building in Turzovka, in the Žilina Region (Slovakia), did not involve state aid. This is because the

measure is unlikely to affect competition and trade between Member States. To read the relevant press release of the European Commission click [here](#).

Energy

CJEU: judgment issued in Case C-228/16 P (Dimosia Epicheirisi Ilektrismou AE (DEI) vs. European Commission)

By means of its judgment in Case C-228/16 P (Dimosia Epicheirisi Ilektrismou AE (DEI) vs. European Commission), the Court of Justice of the European Union set aside the General Court of the European Union (GC) ruling to reject an action for annulment brought against a letter by the Commission of June 2014, which the GC declared to be without object following a formal Commission decision replacing this letter in March 2015. To read the full judgment of the CJEU in Case C-228/16 P click [here](#).

CJEU: judgment issued in Case Case C-150/16 (Fondul Proprietatea SA v. Complexul Energetic Oltenia SA)

On 18.05.2017, the CJEU issued its judgment issued in Case Case C-150/16 (Fondul Proprietatea SA v. Complexul Energetic Oltenia SA)

in a case concerning a request for a preliminary ruling under Article 267 TFEU from the Curtea de Apel Craiova (Court of Appeal, Craiova, Romania), made by decision of 3 March 2016). To read the full judgment of the CJEU in Case C-150/16 click [here](#).

The European Commission found Portugal's extension of hydro-power concessions to EDP does not involve state aid

The European Commission has concluded that the extension of hydro power concessions granted by Portugal to the national incumbent Electricidade de Portugal SA (EDP) did not involve state aid. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1324) click [here](#).

The European Commission cleared support to energy-intensive users in Latvia

The European Commission approved under EU state aid rules Latvian plans to partially compensate energy-intensive users for charges paid to support renewable energy. This measure will contribute to the competitiveness of these users without unduly distorting competition in the Single Market. To read the relevant press release

of the European Commission click [here](#).

The European Commission approved reductions on cogeneration surcharges for energy-intensive companies in Germany and Italy

The European Commission approved under EU state aid rules reductions granted to energy-intensive companies on surcharges to finance support for cogeneration in Germany, and reductions on surcharges to finance support for cogeneration and renewables in Italy. The Commission found that both measures further EU energy and climate goals and ensure the global competitiveness of energy-intensive industries, whilst preserving competition in the EU Single Market. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1440) click [here](#).

The European Commission opened investigation into gas export restrictions from Romania

The European Commission opened a formal investigation to assess whether Romania's gas transmission system operator Transgaz hindered gas exports from Romania to other EU Member States. The Commission will

investigate whether Transgaz has abused a dominant market position in breach of EU rules. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1501) click [here](#).

The European Commission cleared the acquisition of Iona Energy by TPG and Oaktree Capital

The European Commission approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of joint control by TPG and Oaktree Capital Group Holdings GP (both of the USA) over Iona Energy Company Limited (UK). Iona Energy owns and develops the Orlando and Kells oil fields in the North Sea. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. To read the relevant press release of the European Commission click [here](#).

The European Commission cleared the takeover of the Areva Group's nuclear reactors business by EDF

The European Commission approved EDF's proposed takeover of New NP, the Areva Group's nuclear reactors business, under the EU Merger Regulation. The Commission concluded that the transaction would not raise competition concerns. EDF plans to acquire between 51 % and 75 %

of the capital of 'New NP' which houses the Areva Group's nuclear reactors business. The two companies operate in the energy sector. EDF is the largest nuclear power plant operator in the EU, while New NP focuses on the design and supply of nuclear reactors and equipment, fuel assemblies, control systems and services to nuclear power plants. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1466) click [here](#).

Greece: Results of the public consultation of RAE on the ten-year development program of the National Electricity Transmission System for the years 2018-2027

To read the full press release of the Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE) click [here](#).

Greece: Public consultation of RAE on a) the joint proposal of TSOs from the capacity calculation area of Southeast Europe and b) the joint proposal of the TSOs from the capacity calculation area of Greece – Italy in relation to the determination of recovery procedures, in accordance with article 44 of the Regulation (EU) 2015/ 1222 of the Commission of 24.07.2015

The abovementioned public consultation shall last until Monday, 24.07.2017. To read the full press release of RAE click [here](#).

Greece: RAE proceeded with the Certification of ADMIE

By means of its decision No. 475/2017 taken on 09.06.2017, RAE proceeded with the final certification of ADMIE as an unbundled TSO. To read the full press release of RAE click [here](#).

Greece: Public consultation of ENTSO-e for the processes of the determination of physical transmission rights for the offer zones of Greece-Italy and Greece-Bulgari, in application of Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/1719 of 26 September 2016

To read the full press release of RAE in this regard click [here](#).

Greece: RAE announced that on 26.05.2017, the first tripartite meeting between the presidents of the Regulatory Authorities for Energy of Greece, Bulgaria and Romania was held

To read the full press release of RAE click [here](#).

Greece: Decision No. 239/2017 of RAE (Amendment of the Management Code of the National Natural Gas System) was published in the Government Gazette

To read decision No. 239/2017 of RAE as published in the Government Gazette (Issue 1549B'/05.05.2017) click [here](#).

Electronic Communications

Advocate General opinions on Danish public service broadcaster state aid appeals published

On 30.05.2017, in Cases C-649/15 P (TV2/Danmark A/S v. European Commission) and C - 656/15 P (European Commission v. TV2/Danmark A/S), Advocate General Wathelet of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) handed down his opinions on the appeals brought by TV2/Danmark A/S, Viasat Broadcasting UK Limited and the European Commission in relation to

the General Court of the European Union (GC) ruling on the granting of aid to Danish public service broadcaster TV2. To read the full opinion of the Advocate General in C-649/15 P click [here](#). To read the full opinion of the Advocate General in C-656/15 P click [here](#).

The European Commission alleged Altice breached EU rules by early implementation of PT Portugal acquisition

The European Commission sent a Statement of Objections alleging that multinational telecommunications company Altice (the Netherlands), breached the EU Merger Regulation by implementing its acquisition of telecommunications operator PT Portugal before notification or approval by the Commission. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1368) click [here](#).

The European Commission endorsed new €101 million Croatian national broadband scheme for 2017-2023

The European Commission found that Croatia's €101.4 million Next Generation Network (NGN) Broadband plan is in line with EU state aid rules. This scheme aims to provide fast internet access where

it is currently not available, in particular in rural areas. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1545) click [here](#).

The European Commission approved Vivendi's acquisition of Telecom Italia, subject to conditions

The European Commission approved the acquisition of de facto control over Telecom Italia by Vivendi. The decision is conditional on the divestment of Telecom Italia's stake in Persidera. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1475) click [here](#).

Greece: Public Consultation of HTPC on the Decision concerning the operation of the productive environment of the Information System "Pricescope" for telecommunication products

The Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission (HTPC) announced the conducting of Public Consultation of HTPC on the Decision concerning the operation of the productive environment of the Information System "Pricescope" for telecommunication products. To read the full press release of the HTPC click [here](#).

Greece: the HTPC announced the completion of its public consultation regarding the restriction to the number of rights to use the radiofrequencies at the 1800 MHz zone and the process for the granting thereof

To read the full press release of the HTPC click [here](#).

Roaming charges scrapped in the EU from 15.06.2017

The HTPC notified mobile subscribers that from June 15th, 2017, roaming charges for calls, messaging (SMS) and data usage in the 28 Member States of the European Union as well as in Liechtenstein, Iceland and Norway have been completely wiped out. To read the full press release of the HTPC click [here](#). To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-16-3111) in this regard click [here](#).

Greece: Clarifications of the HTPC issued concerning Phase C of the process for the entry of the VDSL technology in the access network

On 26.06.2017, the HTPC issued clarifications concerning the documentation / information which must be submitted along with the request for participation in Phase C of the First Assignment in

relation to the entry of the VDSL technology in the access network. To read the full press release of the HTPC click [here](#).

Greece: the HTPC announced the conducting of a public consultation for the project "Assessment of the reference model submitted by ELTA – calculation and verification of the net cost of the universal service for the years 2013, 2014, 2015"

The deadline for the submission of offers was set for 21.07.2017, 13:00. To read the full invitation of the HTPC click [here](#).

Greece: the HTPC issued its decision concerning the assignment to the applicant providers of the areas of the Urban Centers (AK) OTE for which they expressed interest to implement NGA access networks, within the context of the Phase B of the First Assignment of areas for the development of VDSL Vectoring

To read the full decision of the HTPC click [here](#).

Pharmaceuticals

The European Commission opened formal investigation into Aspen Pharma's pricing practices for cancer medicines

The European Commission opened a formal investigation into concerns that Aspen Pharma engaged in excessive pricing concerning five life-saving cancer medicines. The Commission will investigate whether Aspen has abused a dominant market position in breach of EU antitrust rules. The investigation concerns Aspen's pricing practices for niche medicines containing the active pharmaceutical ingredients chlorambucil, melphalan, mercaptopurine, tioguanine and busulfan. The medicines in question are used for treating cancer, such as hematologic tumours. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1323) click [here](#).

The European Commission cleared acquisition of Famar by Pillarstone

The European Commission approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of Famar of Luxembourg, by Pillarstone of the US. Famar provides contract manufacturing services in the pharmaceutical sector. Pillarstone is an investment vehicle indirectly controlled by the investment fund KKR. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition

would not raise competition concerns, in view of the very limited horizontal overlaps between the activities of the companies as well as their limited vertical relationships. To read the relevant press release of the European Commission click [here](#).

UK: The CMA published the full non-confidential decision following its investigation into unfair pricing for phenytoin sodium capsules in the UK

In December last year, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) imposed a record £84.2 million fine on the pharmaceutical manufacturer Pfizer and a £5.2 million fine on Flynn Pharma after finding that each broke competition law by charging excessive and unfair prices for phenytoin sodium capsules, an anti-epilepsy drug. The CMA also issued directions ordering both companies to reduce their prices, which they have now done. The full text of the decision was published on 15.06.2017 by the CMA. To read the full press release of the CMA click [here](#).

Transport**CJEU: Opinion of the Advocate General in Case C-122/16 P (British Airways plc v. European Commission)**

The Advocate General of the Court of Justice of the European Union argued that the General Court of the European Union (GC) was correct when it refused to annul the European Commission's 2010 air cargo decision as it applied to British Airways. The European had fined 11 airlines €799 million for rigging the price of surcharges imposed on flights through the European Economic Area. British Airways was ordered to pay €104 million of that fine. To read the full opinion of the Advocate General of the CJEU in Case C-122/16 P click [here](#).

The European Commission approved €30 million investment aid for Scandinavian mountains airport

The European Commission found that Swedish plans to grant €29.9 million in investment aid to establish a commercial airport in Sälen, Sweden, are in line with EU state aid rules. The airport will improve connections in the Scandinavian mountains region whilst preserving competition in the Single Market.

To read the relevant press release of the European Commission click [here](#).

The European Commission cleared acquisition of a German cargo road haulage company by DTC and HaGe

The European Commission approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of joint control over the undertaking König Transportgesellschaft mbH ('König Transportgesellschaft') of Germany, by the German undertakings Deutsche Tiernahrung Cremer GmbH & Co. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because of its very limited impact on the market structure. To read the relevant press release of the European Commission click [here](#).

The European Commission simplified rules for public investment in ports and airports, culture and the outermost regions

The European Commission approved new state aid rules that exempt certain public support measures for ports, airports, culture and the outermost regions from prior Commission scrutiny. The objective is to facilitate public investment for job creation and

growth whilst preserving competition. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1341) click [here](#). To read the full factsheet of the European Commission (MEMO-17-1342) click [here](#). To read the full statement of Commissioner Vestager (STATEMENT-17-1367) click [here](#).

The European Commission approved restructuring aid to Greek railway companies OSE and TRAINOSE

The European Commission concluded that Greek measures to support the restructuring of OSE, the national rail infrastructure manager, and TRAINOSE, the passenger and freight rail transport operator, are in line with EU state aid rules. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1661) click [here](#).

The European Commission approved €377 million of French and German aid to develop innovative Airbus X6 helicopter

The European Commission approved under EU state aid rules €377 million of French and German support to develop the innovative Airbus X6 heavy helicopter. The project will significantly contribute to research and innovation in the

EU without unduly distorting competition in the Single Market. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1683) click [here](#).

The European Commission approved French support for construction of €1.3 billion Paris-Charles-de-Gaulle airport express rail line

The European Commission approved French support measures for the construction of an express railway line between Paris and the Paris-Charles-de-Gaulle airport. The project will improve the coordination of different modes of transport, in line with the EU's transport policy objectives. To read the full press release of the European Commission (IP-17-1793) click [here](#).

Greece: On 19.05.2017, the concentration by means of which the company “Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE) Ltd”, which is controlled by “Investment Corporation of Dubai” shall indirectly acquire absolute control over the company “AWAS Aviation Capital DAC”, was notified to the HCC

To read the full press release of the Hellenic Competition Commission

(HCC) please visit the website of the [HCC](#).

News of the Markets

Forthnet teamed up with Chinese firms to fund Greek telecoms network

According to press information, Greek telecoms company Forthnet and Chinese telecom equipment maker ZTE Corp teamed up with two other Chinese firms to finance a fibre optic network in Greece.

RAE sought out investors to implement power linkup with Crete

According to press information, the Greek Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE) began scanning the market for the concession of the project to connect the power supply of Hania and the rest of Crete with Greece's main grid to another investor, in case the Independent Power Transmission Operator (ADMIE) proves unable to meet the timetables set.

Greek government relinquished full control of grid operator

The Greek state will no longer have full control of power grid operator ADMIE, despite what the government has professed, according to press information

citing an unpublished agreement between Greece and the State Grid Corporation of China. The details of the deal with the Chinese company have been revealed in the informative document of the holding company set up for the listing of 51 percent of Independent Power Transmission Operator on the Greek stock market in the context of the splitting of the grid company from PPC.

EU to charge PPC with abusing dominance

According to press information, bad news is coming to Public Power Corporation from Brussels, as a probe by the European Commission's Directorate General for Competition, which started with the unexpected arrival of inspectors at the offices of PPC and grid operator ADMIE, confirmed concerns about the company's possible abuse of its dominant position. According to the same information, an investigation has confirmed that the algorithm according to which the hydroelectric plants are set in operation had been tampered with in a way that allows PPC to manipulate the system marginal price (SMP) that changes daily in the wholesale market.

Greece agreed to sell coal-fired plants, mines to open up electricity market

Greece agreed to sell coal-fired plants and coal mines equal to about 40 percent of PPC's coal-fired capacity, to help open up its electricity market, according to press information.

The consortium comprising of "Deutsche Invest Equity Partners GmbH", "Belterra Investments Ltd." and "Terminal Link SAS" was nominated Preferred Investor for the acquisition of the 67% share capital of THPA SA

The Board of Directors of the Hellenic Republic Asset Development Fund (HRADF) unanimously declared the consortium comprising of "Deutsche Invest Equity Partners GmbH", "Belterra Investments Ltd." and "Terminal Link SAS" as the Preferred Investor for the acquisition of the 67% of the shares of Thessaloniki Port Authority SA., in accordance with the terms of the tender process, having considered all the required documents on time submitted by the Highest Bidder. To read the full press release of the HRADF click [here](#).

Extension to the deadline for the submission of binding offers for the sale of 100% of EESSTY SA (ROSCO)

Following the relevant request submitted by a Prequalified Investor, HRADF's Board of Directors reached the decision to extend the deadline for the submission of binding offers for the acquisition of 100% of EESSTY S.A.'s (ROSCO) share capital. The new deadline for the submission of Binding Offers was set to November 3, 2017. To read the full press release of the HRADF click [here](#).

AIA SA offered €600 million for the 20-year extension of the Athens international airport concession agreement

The launch of the 20-year extension process of the Athens International Airport Concession Agreement was marked by HRADF's acceptance of the improved offer submitted by Athens International Airport SA ("AIA"), late in the evening of Tuesday 30th May 2017. AIA's improved offer provides a total cost of €600 million, including the corresponding VAT. The net proceeds from the privatization program amount to €483.87 million. In order to endorse the improved offer, HRADF took into account two

independent evaluations and the positive opinion of the Board of Experts. To read the full press release of the HRADF click [here](#).

Following a resolution by GCEP on March 1, 2017, HRADF decided to proceed with a new tender for DESFA, whilst terminating the previous tender

The HRADF invited interested parties to submit Expressions of Interest to participate in an international public competitive bidding Tender Process for the acquisition of a 66% stake in the Hellenic Gas Transmission System Operator SA (DESFA), a 100% subsidiary of DEPA. According to the fund, the new tender will involve again the sale of DESFA's 66%. To read the full press release of the HRADF click [here](#).

Portfolio of HRADF retained regional ports

According to press information, the HRADF retained control of 10 regional ports of international interest, with the aim of their privatization or other forms of utilization. The ports in question are those of Alexandroupoli, Corfu, Elefsina, Igoumenitsa, Iraklio, Kavala, Lavrio, Patra, Rafina and Volos. The shares of their port

authorities were transferred to HRADF in 2012.

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