

ESMA publishes opinion on proposed amendments to SFTR technical standards

ESMA has declined to amend the draft technical standards as proposed by the EC, which relate to provisions on the use of legal entity identifiers (LEI) for branches and unique transaction identifiers (UTI) for reporting to trade repositories, being of the view that the proposed amendments:

- a) will hinder the possibility to take into account international developments and reporting standards agreed at global level and risk timely alignment with international reporting standards;
- b) will deviate from and create inconsistency with the currently applicable EMIR reporting standards;
- c) will not provide certainty, clarity, predictability and consistency, which is essential for the market and public authorities in relation to reporting standards; and
- d) would result in a significantly extended timeline for the introduction of global standards in the EU.

ESMA has therefore not amended the draft technical standards.

ESMA's Regulation requires it to adopt a formal opinion on proposed amendments to its draft technical standards by the EC within a six-week period. The draft technical standards may now be adopted or amended by the EC.

ESAs report finds automation in financial advice slowly growing but scale of market remains limited

The three European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs) – EBA, EIOPA and ESMA – today published the results of their [monitoring exercise on automation in financial advice](#). The Report shows that while the phenomenon of automation in financial advice seems to be slowly growing, the overall number of firms and customers involved is still quite limited. As the identified risks have not materialised and considering the limited growth of the phenomenon, the ESAs believe that no immediate action is necessary.

Through this Report, the risks and benefits of this phenomenon, which had previously been identified by the ESAs have largely been confirmed by national competent authorities (NCAs) and remain valid.

In examining emerging business models, the ESAs found that automated services are being offered, through partnerships, by established financial intermediaries, rather than by pure FinTech firms. Additionally, some new trends are emerging such as the use of Big Data, chatbots and a broader range of products.

The ESAs concluded that given the overall importance of the topic, and the emergence of some ongoing changes to business models, a new monitoring exercise will be conducted if and when the development of the market and market risks warrant this work.

Background

Following the publication of the Report on Automation in Financial Advice in 2016, this new analysis has been carried out through a survey involving NCAs, on the evolution of 'automation in financial advice' in the securities, banking and insurance sectors over the past two years.

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International data flows: Commission launches the adoption of its adequacy decision on Japan

Following the conclusion of the EU-Japan talks on personal data protection [in July](#) 2018, the Commission launched today the procedure for the adoption of its adequacy decision. Věra **Jourová**, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, briefed the College on the next steps and the Commission is publishing the draft adequacy decision and the related documents. This includes the additional safeguards that Japan will apply to EU personal data transferred to Japan, as well as commitments regarding access to personal data by Japanese public authorities for law enforcement and national security purposes, guaranteeing that their level of data protection is adequate to that of the EU's. Japan is also going through a similar process to recognise the EU's data protection framework. Commissioner **Jourová** said: *"We are creating the world's largest area of safe data flows. Personal data will be able to travel safely between the EU and Japan to the benefit of both our citizens and our economies. Our partnership will promote global standards for data protection and set an example for future partnerships in this key area."* Each side is now going through its internal procedures towards the final adoption of its reciprocal adequacy finding. For the EU, this involves obtaining an opinion from the [European Data Protection Board \(EDPB\)](#) and the green light from a committee composed of representatives of the EU Member

States. Once this procedure will have been completed, the Commission will adopt the adequacy decision on Japan. A [press release](#), a [Q&A](#) and a [factsheet](#) are available online (*For more information Christian Wigand – Tel.: +32 229 62253; Melanie Voin – Tel.: +32 229 58659*)

College meeting: European Commission appoints new Director-General to its health and food safety department

Today, the European Commission decided to appoint Ms Anne Bucher to the position of Director-General in its Health and Food Safety department ([DG SANTE](#)) as of 1 October. Ms Bucher, a French national, has worked for the European Commission for 35 years. She has spent most of her career on management jobs in several Commission departments. Ms Bucher is currently the chair of the Commission's Regulatory Scrutiny Board. She will succeed Mr Xavier Prats Monné who will retire at the end of September. More information is available in the press release [here](#). Also today, the Commission has decided to propose to the Administrative Board of the European Food Safety Authority ([EFSA](#)) to extend the term of office of its current Executive Director, Mr Bernhard Url, for a period of five years as of 1 June 2019. Mr Url has been managing EFSA since 2013, following a career with the Austrian food safety authorities. More information about Mr Url's professional background is available [here](#). (*For more information: Alexander Winterstein – Tel.: +32 299 32 65; Andreana Stankova – Tel.: +32 295 78 57*)

European Citizens' Initiative: Commission registers 'End the Cage Age' initiative

The College of Commissioners has today decided to register a European Citizens' Initiative entitled 'End the Cage Age'. The stated objectives of the proposed Citizens' Initiative are to end "*inhumane treatment of farm animals*" kept in cages. The organisers are asking the Commission to propose legislation to prohibit the use of: cages for laying hens, rabbits, pullets, broiler breeders, layer breeders, quail, ducks and geese; farrowing crates for sows; sow stalls and individual calf pens – where not already prohibited. The Commission's decision to register the Initiative concerns only the legal admissibility of the proposal. The Commission has not analysed the substance at this stage. The registration of this Initiative will take place on 11 September 2018. Should the initiative receive one million statements of support within one year, from at least seven different Member States, the Commission will have to react within three months. A full press release on this initiative is available [here](#). (*For more information: Mina Andreeva – Tel.: +32 229 91382; Katarzyna Kolanko – Tel.: +32 299 63444*)

La Commission approuve deux nouvelles indications géographiques protégées d'Espagne et de Lettonie

La Commission européenne a approuvé la demande d'inscription de la «[Morcilla de Burgos](#)» espagnole et du «[Rucavas baltais sviests](#)» letton dans le registre

des indications géographiques protégées (IGP). La «Morcilla de Burgos» est un produit à base de viande, élaboré à partir d'oignons spécifiques, de saindoux ou suif, riz, sang, épices et sel. Elle se présente comme un cylindre, parfois courbé selon la forme du boyau utilisé, et sa couleur externe varie de marron à marron foncé. La «Morcilla de Burgos» est apparue peu après l'arrivée du riz dans la région de Burgos (Castille-et-León), au XVe siècle, mais la Première référence écrite remonte seulement à 1928. Produit dans le novads de Rucava, le «baltais sviests» est, quant à lui, un demi beurre à la saveur acidulée. Traditionnellement, il se mange immédiatement après le barattage, avec des pommes de terre vapeur ou en l'étalant sur du pain de seigle. Sa méthode de fabrication n'a pas changé depuis le XIXe siècle et il continue à être préparé, aujourd'hui encore, selon une recette transmise de génération en génération. Ces nouvelles appellations vont rejoindre plus de 1430 produits déjà protégés dont la liste est disponible dans la base de données [DOOR](#). Pour plus d'informations, voir aussi les pages sur la [politique de qualité](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Daniel Rosario – Tél.: + 32 229 56185; Clémence Robin – Tél.: +32 229 52509)

Eurostat: Volume of retail trade down by 0.2% in euro area

In July 2018 compared with June 2018, the seasonally adjusted volume of retail trade decreased by 0.2% in the euro area (EA19) and remained unchanged in the EU28, according to estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In June, the retail trade volume increased by 0.3% in the euro area and did not change in the EU28. In July 2018 compared with July 2017, the calendar adjusted retail sales index increased by 1.1% in the euro area and by 2.0% in the EU28. A Eurostat press release is available [here](#). (For more information: Lucia Caudet – Tel.: +32 229 56182; Mirna Talko – Tel.: +32 229 87278)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

European Year of Cultural Heritage: Commissioners Navracsics and Bieńkowska in Kraków to discuss Jewish heritage in Europe

Tibor **Navracsics**, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth, and Sport, and Elżbieta **Bieńkowska**, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, will be in Kraków tomorrow to give keynote speeches at a conference on 'Urban Jewish Heritage: Presence and Absence'. The conference, one of the highlights of the [2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage](#) in Poland, will address Jewish heritage in cities and the multi-layered issues it faces, from tourism and sustainability to conservation and representation. The event will bring together academics, city planners, policy makers and community leaders from 30 countries to discuss the past, present and future of cities with Jewish heritage, particularly in Europe. Commissioner **Navracsics** will use the occasion to underline the importance of the European Year for cultural heritage policies in Europe and recall that Jewish culture and cultural heritage are included in many initiatives supported by the EU. The tourism sector in the EU, which is under the responsibility of Commissioner **Bieńkowska**, is constantly growing and creating

jobs. Cultural heritage is a major asset for EU and a driver for our economy and tourism. It is however important that tourism is developed in a sustainable, responsible way, with respect to local communities and their history. More information about the conference is [online](#). *(For more information: Nathalie Vandystadt – Tel.: +32 229 67083; Lucia Caudet – Tel.: +32 229 56182)*

Commissioner Thyssen participates in G20 of Education and Labour Ministers

On 6 and 7 September, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne **Thyssen**, will attend the G20 meeting of Ministers of Education and Labour taking place in Mendoza, Argentina. This year's G20 gathering will focus on "Fostering opportunities for an inclusive, fair and sustainable future of work". As these topics are at the core of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#), the Commissioner will take the opportunity to present European initiatives taken under the Juncker Commission in this area, including our [proposal for a better balance between private life and professional career for working parents and carers](#), our proposal for more [predictable and transparent working conditions](#), [access to social protection for all workers and the self-employed](#), and more. Commissioner Thyssen will participate in working sessions on skills development, policy coordination between Labour and Education institutions, social dialogue, transitions between school and work, technological change, new forms of work, gender equality in the future labour market, removing barriers for people with disabilities, and more. The main outcomes of these discussions will be summarised in the "Mendoza Declaration". The gathering of Ministers will also be an occasion for Commissioner Thyssen to meet with the Argentinian Minister of Labour, Mr Jorge Triaca, as well as State Minister of Japan, Hideki Makiyama, and the German State Secretary of Labour and Social Affairs, Mr Björn Boehning. *(For more information: Christian Wigand – Tel.: +32 229 62253; Sara Soumillion – Tel.: + 32 229 67094)*

Commissioner Moscovici meets Prime Minister Sánchez and Minister Calviño in Madrid

Pierre **Moscovici**, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, will be in Madrid tomorrow, 6 September. Commissioner Moscovici will meet Mr Pedro Sánchez, Prime Minister of Spain, and Ms Nadia Calviño, Minister of Economy and Enterprise of Spain. He will also participate in a conference on the theme of "Growth and Social Inclusion" hosted by [Funcas](#), a social and economic think tank. *(For more information: Christian Spahr – Tel.: +32 229 50055; Annikky Lamp – Tel.: +32 229 56151; Patrick McCullough – Tel.: +32 229 87183)*

Commissioner Bieńkowska in Poland to discuss the future of EU defence policy

Tomorrow, Commissioner for the Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** will be in Kielce (Poland) to visit the 26th edition of the [International Defence Industry Exhibition](#), which annually welcomes hundreds of firms from the defence sector. The Commissioner will engage with the visitors in a Citizens' Dialogue on the future of EU defence policy, where she will deliver a speech with a specific focus on the European Defence Fund. In July the Commission tabled proposals to increase the EU's strategic autonomy, bolster its ability to protect European citizens and make the EU a stronger global actor. The [European Defence Fund](#) will enable cross-border investments in state-of-the-art and fully interoperable technology and equipment in areas such as encrypted software and drone technology. [The proposal](#) is now under negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council. Commissioner **Bieńkowska** will be joined on the podium by Mr Adam Jarubas, Marshal of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship. The [event](#) will be live streamed and Polish-English interpretation will be available. (For more information: Lucia Caudet – Tel.: +32 229 56182; Mirna Talko – Tel.: +32 229 87278)

Commissioner Crețu visits the Czech Republic to talk about the post-2020 Cohesion Policy

Tomorrow, Commissioner for Regional Corina **Crețu** will travel to Prague, where she will meet Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš and Minister of Regional Development Klára Dostálová. The Commissioner will also meet Members of the EU Committee and Regional Development Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, and of the EU Committee of the Senate. Commissioner **Crețu** said: *"My visit will focus on our proposal for the 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy and what it means for the Czech Republic. EU funds will continue to be a driver of innovation and technological modernisation in the Czech Republic. In a competitive, globalised economy, Cohesion Policy will keep on giving Czech regions the right boost so they can grow even more and shape a better future for their inhabitants."* More information on the Commission proposal for the 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy is available [here](#). (For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615, Andreana Stankova – Tel.: +32 229 57857)

[Upcoming events](#) of the European Commission (ex-Top News)

[European Commission appoints new Director-General to its health and food safety department](#)

Ms Bucher, a French national, has been working for the European Commission for 35 years. Throughout her career, she has focused on a variety of policy

areas – economy and finance, development and social policy, taxation and information society. She has held management functions for most of her career and has been a senior manager in the Commission's Directorates-General for Economic Affairs and for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, respectively, since 2008.

In March 2016, Ms Bucher became the Chair of the Commission's Regulatory Scrutiny Board (RSB), which the Juncker Commission had put in place at the start of its mandate. In this role, she ensured that the RSB provided independent advice to the College, thus enabling the Commission to deliver on its political priorities and Better Regulation agenda. Among the recent success stories of the RSB, is its contribution to the delivery of over 50 legislative proposals for the sectoral programmes under the new long-term budget of the EU for 2021-2027.

Ms Bucher will bring to her new position solid management experience and a broad view of Commission policies in a variety of areas, which will be essential at times when effective health and food safety management is interlinked with economy and technology. She will be succeeding Mr Xavier Prats Monné who, after a long and distinguished career in the Commission, will retire at the end of September to work with non-profit organisations in the field of education.

Xavier Prats Monné, who joined the Commission with Spain's accession to the EU in 1986, has contributed to shaping Commission policies in areas including employment, culture, youth and sport, health and food safety and foreign affairs. Between 2014 and 2015, he led the Commission's department for education and culture (DG EAC), before becoming the head of DG SANTE in September 2015.

For more information

[CVs of the European Commission's top managers](#)

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