

# CALENDRIER du 4 février au 10 février 2019

*(Susceptible de modifications en cours de semaine)*

## *Déplacements et visites*

### **Lundi 4 février 2019**

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives General Claudio Graziano, Chairman of the European Union Military Committee.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Peter Tschentscher, First Mayor of Hamburg.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** receives Ms Kristalina Georgieva, Interim President of the World Bank Group and Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** co-chairs the 5th EU-League of Arab States (LAS) Ministerial Meeting, in Brussels.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** participates in the second European Commission – World Bank Group Deep Dive Dialogue, in Brussels.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives representatives of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA).

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** participate in the second European Commission – World Bank Group Deep Dive Dialogue, in Brussels.

Mr Günther H. **Oettinger** receives Ms Kristalina Georgieva, Interim President of the World Bank Group and Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives Mr Mats Harborn, President of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives Ms Arancha González, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre.

Mr Neven **Mimica** holds the opening remarks at the 2019 [Forum Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation](#), in Brussels.

Mr Neven **Mimica** participates in the second European Commission – World Bank Group Deep Dive Dialogue, in Brussels.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** speaks in the launch of the European Environment Agency report on “Inequalities in exposure to health impacts of selected environmental health hazards”, in Brussels.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Athens, Greece: meets Mr Prokópis Pavlópoulos, President of Greece, meets Mr Andreas Xanthos, Minister for Health of Greece, meets Professor Panagiotis Behrakis, Director of the George D. Behrakis Research Lab of the Hellenic Cancer Society and Institute of Public Health of the American College.

Mr Dimitris **Avramopoulos** delivers a speech at the “Projects in Migration and Security” event for beneficiaries of all Union Action grants signed in 2018.

Mr Dimitris **Avramopoulos** receives the Hellenic Fur Federation.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** in Ghent, Belgium: gives a lecture on “Social Europe” at the Sint-Bavohumaniora High-School.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** participe au deuxième European Commission – World Bank Group Deep Dive Dialogue, à Brussels.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** à Paris : rencontre M. Emmanuel Macron, Président de la France.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** reçoit Monseigneur Alain Lebeaupin, Nonce Apostolique et porte-parole du Saint-Siège auprès de l’Union européenne.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** in Nicosia, Cyprus: delivers a keynote speech at the launching event of the European Solidarity Corps organized by the Cyprus Youth Organization; and meets representatives of the NGO Support Centre.

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Rioja, Spain: meets Mr Luis Planas, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain; meets Mr José Ignacio Cenicerós, President of the Regional Government of La Rioja; meets Mr Iñigo Nagore Ferrer, Regional Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Environment of the Government of La Rioja; meets representatives of the agricultural sector of La Rioja; visits the European Centre for Information and Promotion of the Rural Environment.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** in Chrzanów, Poland: takes part in a [Citizen’s dialogue](#) about the future of Europe together with Ms Róża Thun, Member of the European Parliament, and Mr Robert Maciaszek, Mayor of Chrzanów.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** receives several Young Leaders of Industry, in the framework of the [EU Industry Days 2019](#), in Brussels.

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** in Cambridge, United Kingdom: gives a lecture at the University of Cambridge.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** receives Mr Stefan Oschmann, President of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA).

## **Mardi 5 février 2019**

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** delivers a keynote speech at the opening of the

EU Industry Days 2019.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Manfred Weber, Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament, for a working lunch.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** receives Representatives of the Committees of EU Affairs and Legal Affairs.

Mr Frans **Timmermans**, in The Hague, the Netherlands: attends the meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of EU Affairs.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** receives Mr Gudlaugur Thór Thórdarson, Foreign Minister of Iceland.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** receives Mr Adel Aljubeir, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** delivers a keynote speech at the High-Level Roundtable on Europe's Cyber Future, at the European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO).

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** delivers a speech at the [Responsible Banking Principles Workshop](#) organised by the European Banking Federation (EBF) and the United Nations Environment Programme – Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), in Brussels.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** attends the [EU Industry Days 2019](#); participates in the high-level roundtable "Industry and the future of globalisation"; visits an exhibition about "EU supports Industrial Modernisation", chairs the first meeting of the Circular Plastics Alliance; attends a meeting with Young Leaders of Industry; and chairs the fourth meeting of "Industry 2030", in Brussels.

Mr Günther H. **Oettinger** in Berlin, Germany: meets with representatives of the Committee on the Affairs of the EU in the German Bundestag.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives Mr Luca Visentini, General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), Ms Liina Carr, ETUC Confederal Secretary, and Mr Daniele Basso, ETUC Advisor.

Mr Neven **Mimica** receives Mr Li Yong, Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

Mr Neven **Mimica** receives Ms Arancha González, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** receives Mr Kjell-Børge Freiberg, Minister for Petroleum and Energy of Norway.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** gives a speech at the [4<sup>th</sup> EU-Norway Energy Conference](#).

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives Mr Gerd Chrzanowski, CEO of Schwarz Central Services.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives Mr Mehmet Cahit Turhan, Minister for Transport and

Infrastructure of Turkey.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives a group of several NGOs including the Environmental Justice Foundation, Oceana, The Nature Conservancy, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Athens, Greece: meets Mr Stavros Arachovitis, Minister for Rural Development and Food of Greece.

Mr Dimitris **Avramopoulos** receives Mr Mevludin Nuhodžić, Minister for Internal Affairs of Montenegro, for the initialling of the status agreement on cooperation between Montenegro and the European Border and Coastguard Agency.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** à Paris : prononce un discours lors de la conférence sur le thème « New Tools for the EU Budget » organisée par France Stratégie et l'OCDE.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** reçoit des membres du Bundestag, Parlement fédéral d'Allemagne.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** receives Mr Mehmet Cahit Turhan, Minister of Transport and Infrastructure of Turkey.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** receives Ms Kristalina Georgieva, Interim President of the World Bank Group and Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** delivers the opening speech at the [EU Industry Days 2019](#), in Brussels.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** speaks at the '[2019 Sport Info Day](#)', in Brussels.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** speaks at the event on 'European institutions and the protection of minority rights organised' by MEP Pál Csáky, at the European Parliament.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** attends the official ceremony for the signing of the agreement welcoming Serbia to the Erasmus+ programme, with Mladen Šarčević, Minister for Education, Science and Technological Development of Serbia

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** receives an award and speaks at "The Association for International Sport for All ([TAFISA](#)) Jürgen Palm awards ceremony".

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Lisbon, Portugal: participates in the "SRS talks" conference on the theme "Europe and the challenges of the decade", organised by the law firm SRS Advogados.

Mr Julian **King** delivers a speech at the [European Policy Centre](#) (EPC) breakfast meeting on "Defending Europe's Security – The fight against terrorism & illegal terrorist content online, disinformation and threats to electoral processes", in Brussels.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel**, in the context of the [Safer Internet Day](#), visits Child

Focus (Belgian Safer Internet Centre) with Mr Philippe De Backer, Minister for Digital Agenda of Belgium; visits the European School Brussels IV in Laeken and meets with Bulgarian and French speaking pupils; and participates in a [Citizens' dialogue with secondary school students](#).

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** delivers a keynote speech at the high-level Roundtable on Europe's Cyber future organised by the [European Cyber Security Organisation](#).

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** receives Ms Rositsa Zaimova, co-founder of Dalberg Data Insights.

## **Mercredi 6 février 2019**

College meeting

Informal meeting of justice and home affairs ministers

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Herbert Reul, Minister of Interior of North Rhine – Westphalia

Mr Frans **Timmermans** receives a group of Polish students from the Universities of Poznan and Lublin.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** receives Mr Bob Rae, Canadian Special Envoy to Myanmar.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis**, together with Ms Marianne **Thyssen**, attends the joint Conference and the Signing Ceremony on "[Promoting and Reinforcing the EU Social Dialogue](#)" with EU and national social partners, in Brussels.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** receives Mr Alfred F. Kelly, Jr., CEO of Visa, Inc.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** in Madrid, Spain (until 07/02): meets Mr Pablo Casado, President of the Partido Popular; Ms Margarita Robles, Minister for Defence of Spain; and attends a working dinner hosted by the Confederation of Employers and Industries of Spain (CEOE).

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives Mr Andreas Norlén, Speaker of the Riksdag.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives Ms Véronique Willems, Secretary General of SMEUnited.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** reçoit Mme Sylvie Matherat, Responsable mondial des affaires gouvernementales et réglementaires de la Deutsche Bank.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** à Paris: rencontre M. Xavier Bertrand, Président du Conseil régional des Hauts-de-France.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** receives Ms Paulette Lenert, Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs of Luxembourg.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** receives a group of students and professors from

Lublin and Poznan Universities; receives a delegation of authorities from the Dolny Śląsk region, including Mr. Roman Szelemej, the Mayor of Walbrzych.

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives Members of the European Law of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection of the German Bundestag.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** participates in and speaks at the event "[Science meets Parliaments: What role for science in 21st century policy-making](#)" at the European Parliament.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** receives Mr Martin Eichtinger, Member of the Provincial Government of Lower Austria responsible for Housing, Labour and International Relations.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** participates in and speaks at the [Plenary Session of the European Committee of the Regions](#) on Future EU Programmes for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport.

Ms Corina **Crețu** receives Mr Roman Szelemej, Mayor of Walbrzych (Poland) and a delegation of the Lower Silesia region (Poland).

Ms Corina **Crețu** receives Mr Hans Niessl, Regional President of Burgenland and Mr Christian Illeditsch, President of the Regional Parliament of Burgenland (Austria).

Ms Corina **Crețu** receives Mr Francesco Pigliaru, President of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia, Mr Gilles Simeoni, President of the Executive Council of Corsica (France) and Ms Francina Armengol, President of the Government of the Balearic Islands (Spain).

Ms Corina **Crețu** receives Mr Christos Spirtzis, Greek Minister for Transport and Infrastructure.

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** gives a keynote speech at the [EU Industry Days 2019](#), in Brussels.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Porto, Portugal (until 07/02): participates in a working dinner with Dr. Ana Pinho, President of the Serralves Foundation; delivers a keynote speech at the Serralves Conference "Technological utopia: innovation at the service of humanity".

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** receives Mr Michael Peters, CEO of Euronews.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** receives Mrs Ulrike Rabmer-Koller, President of SMEUnited.

## **Jeudi 7 février 2019**

Informal meeting of justice and home affairs ministers

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Martin Schulz, former President of the European Parliament, for a working lunch.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** delivers a keynote speech at the Public Hearing of the European Parliament's Environment and Development Committees – "The remaining 12 years: EU action towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in Brussels.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** receives Ms Viorica Dăncilă, Prime Minister of Romania.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** receives Mr Jacco Vonhof, president of MKB Nederland (Dutch association of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises).

Mr Frans **Timmermans** receives Mr Andreas Norlén, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** delivers a speech in the plenary session of the Committee of the Regions, in Brussels.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** receives Mr Willem Jonker, CEO of EIT Digital; Mr Raymond Freymann, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of EIT Digital and Mr Linnar Viik, Member of the Supervisory Board of EIT Digital.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** in Riga, Latvia (until 08/02): meets Ms Ilze Viņķele, Minister for Health of Latvia; meets Mr Krišjānis Kariņš, Prime Minister of Latvia; and meets Mr Jānis Reirs, Minister for Finance of Latvia.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** in Madrid, Spain: delivers a keynote speech at the [Forum Nueva Economía](#); meets Ms Carmen Calvo, Vice-President of the Government and Minister for the Presidency, Parliamentary Relations and Equality; Ms Nadia Calviño, Minister for the Economy and Business; and participates in a meeting with the representatives of the Joint Committee for the EU and financial affairs and the Committee for Competitiveness of the Spanish Congress.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives Mr Emilio Braghi, Chairman of European Aluminium, Senior Vice President and President at Novelis Europe.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** meets with the Expert Group on EU Trade Agreements, in Brussels.

Mr Neven **Mimica** in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: on official mission.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** gives a speech at the event ["Decarbonising energy: Lessons from history and policies for the future"](#), in Brussels.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** delivers a keynote speech at the high-level Conference on "Forests at the heart of Sustainable Development", in Brussels.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** participates in the European Economic and Social Committee high-level meeting: Towards a comprehensive EU food policy.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** meets Mr Arno Kompatsche, Governor of South Tyrol, in Brussels.

Mr Dimitris **Avramopoulos**, together with Mr Julian **King**, in Bucharest, Romania: participates in the Informal Joint Home Affairs Council.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** reçoit M. Alexander Radwan, membre du Bundestag, Parlement fédéral d'Allemagne.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** receives Mr Bob Rae, Special Envoy to Myanmar of Canada.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** receives Mr Giuseppe Sala, Mayor of Milan.

Ms Věra **Jourová** in Prague, Czechia: delivers a keynote speech at the [4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Digital Czechia](#), organised by the Institute for Politics and Society.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Düsseldorf, Germany: holds a [Citizens' Dialogue](#) with MEP Sabine Verheyen at the conference on "Participation in Civil Society" organised by the [European Students' Forum](#).

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Porto, Portugal: meets with the elected presidents of local municipalities; and participates in a working lunch with business representatives.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Maia, Portugal: visits the headquarters and industrial facilities of Efacec Power Solutions.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Pleven, Bulgaria: delivers an opening speech at the [International Beekeeping Fair Pleven 2019](#).

## **Vendredi 8 février 2019**

Informal meeting of justice and home affairs ministers

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** in Riga, Latvia: meets Mr Jānis Reirs, Minister for Finance of Latvia.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** in Malaga, Spain: meets Mr Juan Manuel Moreno, President of the Regional Government of Andalusia; and participates in a [Citizens' Dialogue](#) on 'European economy and the Future of Europe'.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** in Fuengirola, Spain: participates in a [Citizens' Dialogue](#) on 'the Future of Europe' with the Finnish local representatives; and attends the opening of the Smart Work Plaza with the Mayor of Fuengirola.

Mr Neven **Mimica** in Asmara, Eritrea: on official mission.

Mr Karmenu **Vella**, together with Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Klaipėda, Lithuania: participates in a [Citizens' Dialogue](#); and visits a ship recycling plant.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Klaipėda, Lithuania: visits the company Vakarų Refonda; participates in a [Citizens' Dialogue](#); visits the Maritime Research Institute; meets stakeholders from Klaipėda Technological Park.

Mr Dimitris **Avramopoulos**, together with Mr Julian **King** and Ms Věra **Jourová**,

in Bucharest Romania: attends the Informal Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial meeting.

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Singapore: meets Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore; meets Mr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore; meets representatives of economic think tanks; and meets agri-food business executives.

Ms Corina **Crețu** in Florence, Italy: participates in the Project visit “Heating system of the Montieri region” together with Mr. Enrico Rossi, President of the Tuscany region.

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** in Prague, Czechia: gives a keynote speech at the Conference [‘Digital Czech Republic 2019’](#).

Mr Carlos **Moedas** receives Ms Sanja Damjanovic, Minister for Science of Montenegro.

### **Samedi 9 février 2019**

Mr Neven **Mimica** in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: participates in the launch of the [Spotlight Initiative](#) in Africa.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (until 10/02): speaks at the high-level Opening Segment of the [II Global Artificial Intelligence Governance Forum](#).

### **Dimanche 10 février 2019**

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Sydney, Australia: participates in a roundtable with the European Australian Business Council (EABC).

Ms Corina **Crețu** in Florence, Italy: meets with the local Romanian community.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Dubai, United Arab Emirates: participates in the Ministerial Panel of the [World Government Summit](#).

### **Prévisions du mois de février :**

11/02 Eurogroup

12/02 Economic and Financial Affairs Council

18/02 Competitiveness Council

18-19/02 Foreign Affairs Council

19/02 General Affairs Council

21-22/02 Informal meeting of trade ministers

24-25/02 EU-League of Arab States summit

**Permanence DG COMM le WE du 9 et 10 février 2019:**

**Johannes BAHRKE : +32 (0) 460 75 86 15**

**Service Audiovisuel, planning studio – tél. : +32 (0)2/295 21 23**

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## **[Notice of ESMA's Product Intervention Renewal Decision in relation to contracts for differences](#)**

On 23 January 2019, the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) adopted a [Decision](#) under Article 40 of Regulation (EU) No 600/2014 to restrict the marketing, distribution or sale of contracts for differences (CFDs) to retail clients. The Decision renews and amends ESMA Decision (EU) 2018/7962 on the same terms as the previous renewal decision, ESMA Decision (EU) 2018/16363.

In accordance with Article 40(5) of Regulation (EU) No 600/2014, this Notice provides details of the Decision and the time from which the measure will take effect. The [full text of the Decision](#) is published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

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# Antitrust: Commission sends Statement of Objections in European government bonds cartel

The Commission has concerns that, at different periods between 2007 and 2012, the eight banks participated in a collusive scheme that aimed at distorting competition when acquiring and trading European government bonds (“EGBs”). Traders employed by the banks exchanged commercially sensitive information and coordinated on trading strategies. These contacts would have taken place mainly – but not exclusively – through online chatrooms.

EGBs are sovereign bonds issued in Euro by the central governments of the Eurozone Member States.

If the Commission’s preliminary view were confirmed, such behaviour would violate EU rules that prohibit anticompetitive business practices such as collusion on prices ([Article 101](#) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Article 53 of the EEA Agreement).

The Commission’s investigation relates to certain traders at eight banks and does not imply that the alleged anti-competitive conduct was a general practice in the EGBs sector.

The sending of a Statement of Objections does not prejudice the outcome of an investigation.

## **Background on bond markets**

Bonds are debt securities paying a defined rate of interest, which enable entities to raise funding in international financial markets, and which are subsequently held as investments or traded like any other financial instrument.

Bonds are first issued on the “primary market” for sale through auctions or syndicates. Subsequently, bonds are traded between banks, brokers and investors on the “secondary market”. Bonds can be distinguished by the identity of the issuer and the currency in which they are denominated. The trading desks of banks are organised accordingly.

## **Background on procedure**

A Statement of Objections is a formal step in Commission investigations into suspected violations of EU antitrust rules. The Commission informs the parties concerned in writing of the objections raised against them. The parties can then examine the documents in the Commission’s investigation file, reply in writing and request an oral hearing to present their comments on the case before representatives of the Commission and national competition authorities.

If, after the parties have exercised their rights of defence, the Commission concludes that there is sufficient evidence of an infringement, it can adopt a decision prohibiting the conduct and imposing a fine of up to 10% of a company's annual worldwide turnover.

There is no legal deadline for the Commission to complete antitrust inquiries into anticompetitive conduct. The duration of an antitrust investigation depends on a number of factors, including the complexity of the case, the extent to which the undertaking concerned cooperates with the Commission and the exercise of the rights of defence.

More information on this case will be available under the case number AT.40324 in the [public case register](#) on the Commission's [competition website](#).

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## [ESMA Q&As clarify prospectus and transparency rules in case of no-deal Brexit](#)

The Q&As clarify the application of certain provisions in these Directives in case the UK withdraws from the European Union (EU) on 29 March 2019 with no withdrawal agreement in place (no-deal Brexit). These Q&As will only apply in case of a no-deal Brexit.

The Q&As provide the following clarifications in the event of a no-deal Brexit:

- When issuers of equity securities and non-equity securities below 1,000 EUR who currently have the UK as their PD home Member State choose a new home Member State, they should choose between the EU27 Member States / EEA EFTA States in which they have activities after 29 March 2019 (either offers/admissions made after the withdrawal or admissions made before the withdrawal which continue after the withdrawal).
- Issuers admitted to trading on a regulated market within EU27 / EEA EFTA who currently have the UK as their TD home Member State should choose and disclose their new home Member State without delay following 29 March 2019.
- As the UK will be a third country, prospectuses and supplements approved by the UK FCA before 29 March 2019 cannot be used in EU27 / EEA EFTA after a no-deal Brexit.

The purpose of the Q&As is to promote common supervisory approaches and practices in the application of the PD and TD in case of a no-deal Brexit.

### **Background**

The PD harmonises requirements for the drafting, approval, and distribution of the prospectus to be published when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading on a regulated market in the EU / EEA EFTA.

The TD aims to ensure transparency of information about issuers whose securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market through a regular flow of disclosure of periodic and on-going information and the dissemination of such information to the public.

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## [EU report: Georgia making clear progress on its reform agenda](#)

Today, the [3<sup>rd</sup> Association Implementation Report on Georgia](#) was released. This report sets out the state-of-play of Georgia's implementation of its commitments under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement over the past year, ahead of the EU-Georgia Association Council, to be held in Brussels on 5 March 2019. The report highlights that continued legislative reform and steady implementation of rules and standards in line with the Association Agreement are crucial to allow Georgian citizens to fully reap the benefits of this close relationship between the EU and Georgia.

*"The European Union and Georgia have excellent relations that we further intensified over the past year. Since March 2017, more than 300,000 Georgian citizens have been able to travel visa-free to the Schengen area for short stays, and since 2009, more than 63,000 businesses and farmers have received loans. The European Union will continue to accompany and support the Georgian authorities in implementing important reforms under the Association Agenda, which provides priorities for our joint work until 2020 – reforms that are bringing more and more benefits to Georgian and EU's citizens alike",* said the High Representative/Vice-President, **Federica Mogherini**.

*"The implementation of the Association Agreement continues to bring positive results to Georgian and EU citizens. The implementation of the [agreed actions](#) of our [High-level Meeting](#) back in November will provide further momentum to our relationship. The EU is Georgia's largest trade partner and we will cooperate to further develop Georgia's export potential. In September 2018, the first European School outside the EU was launched in Tbilisi, and Georgia is stepping up its participation in programmes such as Erasmus+, encouraging student and youth exchanges",* said the Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, **Johannes Hahn**.

This 3<sup>rd</sup> Report takes stock of Georgia's implementation of the Association Agreement and in particular the Association Agenda since the last EU-Georgia Association Council of 5 February 2018. Overall, Association Agreement commitments, including as regards its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, have been implemented in line with agreed timelines. Over the past year,

Georgia has made progress in strengthening its democratic institutions, in the framework of the constitutional reform process and public administration reform. The Presidential elections were [held in an overall competitive environment but also raised some shortcomings](#). Modest progress was made in reforming the justice sector, but challenges remain to consolidate the results achieved and to make further progress in this area. In that regard, it is noteworthy that the 4<sup>th</sup> wave of legislative reform was initiated upon establishment of the Parliament-led platform for judiciary reforms. Going forward it is important for the Georgian government to continue fostering an open dialogue with all political actors and civil society. In the past reporting period, Georgian authorities also continued their efforts to tackle the issues regarding irregular migration.

The report underlines the benefits for Georgian citizens of the country's economic integration with the EU through the implementation of its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area commitments. With the progressive approximation of technical regulations and standards with those of the EU, Georgia has been increasingly able to strengthen its participation in international value chains. Regarding external trade, the EU continued to be the most important partner of Georgia, with a 27% share in the country's overall trade in 2017. Preliminary data for 2018 suggests a continuation of this trend. The opening of the EU market to new animal-origin products from Georgia was an important milestone in this regard.

Last year marked the [10 year anniversary of the conflict between Russia and Georgia](#). The European Union continues to firmly support Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. The European Union's commitment to peaceful conflict-resolution remains as strong as ever, through the work of the [EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia](#) and the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia. In June 2018, the Georgian Parliament adopted a legislative package "A Step for a Better Future" to promote peace and opportunities for the people in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Georgia also continues to be an important partner of the EU in the area of security, the fight against terrorism and transnational organised crime. Georgia also participates in the EU-led missions and operations, which contribute to increasing the resilience of countries worldwide and strengthening the EU's role as a global security provider.

**More information:**

[Full text of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Association Implementation Report on Georgia](#)

[Full text of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement](#)

[Association Agenda between the EU and Georgia](#)

[EU-Georgia AA/DCFTA in brief](#)

[EU-Georgia AA/DCFTA Myth buster](#)

[EU-Georgia relations factsheet](#)

[High-level meeting continues to bring Georgia and the European Union closer together](#)

[Key outcomes of the EU-Georgia high-level meeting factsheet](#)

[Full outcomes of the EU-Georgia high-level meeting](#)

[Website of the European Union Delegation to Georgia](#)