

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 33/2021

EU Commission proposes revision of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) to facilitate green and digital transition

EU member states and stakeholders are invited to comment on specific amendments to the GBER regarding EU state aid rules. The Commission is planning to introduce targeted changes to reflect the changes in various sets of State aid Guidelines which are currently being reviewed. The aim of the ongoing revision of these Guidelines and of the proposed revision of the GBER is to promote public funding which supports the Green Deal and the European Industrial and Digital Strategies: https://ec.europa.eu/competition-policy/public-consultations/2021-gber_en

Leak: EU toolbox to tackle rise of energy prices for businesses and consumers

The EU Commission is working on a “toolbox” of measures for EU governments to tackle the critical rise of energy prices. A first draft of the plan was leaked to the press last week, confirming that the Commission is looking at direct government support for small businesses that are most affected by rising energy prices. The Commission will not reopen the EU’s electricity market directives but plans to deepen cross-border regional cooperation on retail energy markets. Measures to increase energy efficiency were also discussed in the plenary between the EU Parliament and the Commission on 6 October: [Sitting of 06-10-2021 | Plenary | European Parliament \(europa.eu\)](#)

EU Parliament: AIDA-TRAN public hearing on AI and transport

On 11 October the Members of AIDA Special Committee and the TRAN Committee in the European Parliament take part in a hearing on AI and transport. In two panels, representatives from academia, the private sector and civil society will discuss the long-term impact of Artificial Intelligence on different transport modes and mobility. The hearing will also cover the EU Transport Policies: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/240300/Draft%20programme%20hearing%20AI.pdf>

EU Sustainable Investment Summit: First annual event on sustainable investment

On 7 October, the European Commission organised in the context of the European Green Deal and the Conference on the Future of Europe the first annual event on sustainable investment. The summit was meant to promote green investment and incentivize cooperation between entrepreneurs and policy-makers regarding ideas to unlock investment and finance to

accelerate the transition towards climate neutrality: [European Commission - EU Sustainable Investment Summit 2021 \(europa.eu\)](#)

OECD International Tax Reform: large companies subject to a minimum 15% tax rate by 2023

Following years of negotiations to align the international tax system to the economic realities of the digital age, 136 countries joined the Statement on the “Two-Pillar Solution to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy”. It will be officially presented at the G20 Finance Ministers meeting in Washington D.C. on 13 October, then to the G20 Leaders Summit in Rome at the end of the month. The agreement allows for the taxation of multinational firms where they generate profit, instead of where they are located. In addition, a minimum corporate tax rate of 15% was agreed: <https://www.oecd.org/tax/international-community-strikes-a-ground-breaking-tax-deal-for-the-digital-age.htm>

The Alliance of European Car Dealers and Repairers (AECDR) represents and promotes the interests of 57,500 franchised dealers and authorised repairers. In total these companies employ 1.175,000 people.