



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

COMPETITIVENESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Sectoral Committee
Weekly Update
04.06.10

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COM (2010) 269 - Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the signature on behalf of the European Union of an Agreement between the European Union and Australia amending the Agreement on mutual recognition in relation to conformity assessment between the European Community and Australia

COM (2010) 270 - Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and Australia amending the Agreement on mutual recognition in relation to conformity assessment, certificates and markings between the European Community and Australia

The agreement between the European Community and Australia on mutual recognition in relation to conformity assessment, certificates and markings (the 'Agreement') entered into force on 1 January 1999. With a view to further improving and simplifying the functioning of the Agreement, the Parties have decided to amend some of its provisions.

The amendment is intended to allow greater flexibility in the structure of sectoral Annexes to the Agreement, to remove unnecessary restrictions on trade between the Parties, to reduce the administrative burden related to management of the Agreement and to facilitate and clarify the operation of the Agreement. In addition, the Sectoral Annexes on medicinal products GMP inspection and batch certification and on medical devices have been superseded by changes in technical and administrative practice and by changes in the organisations listed therein, and the opportunity has been taken to revise them.

Hence, by means of COM(2010)269 the Commission is proposing that the Council adopt a Decision on the signing of the amendment agreement; whilst by means of COM (2010) 270 it is proposing that the Council adopt a Decision to conclude the amendment agreement.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0269:FIN:EN:PDF>
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0270:FIN:EN:PDF>



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COM (2010) 271 - COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS on market reviews under the EU Regulatory Framework (3rd report): Further steps towards the consolidation of the internal market for electronic communications

The regulatory framework for electronic communications which entered into force in 2003 introduced the 'Article 7 procedure' – an EU consultation mechanism which aims at ensuring a consistent regulatory approach within the EU. The recently revised telecoms rules confirmed the central role of the Article 7 procedure in promoting a competitive single market for electronic communications services. They give the Commission additional responsibilities for imposing and implementing remedies. This is intended to give market players greater legal certainty when they invest in telecoms across border.

This Communication presents the major trends and issues encountered since the Commission's 2007 Communication on the market review process, up to the end of 2009. It shows how and to what extent the Commission's oversight role under Article 7 of the Framework Directive (Directive 2002/21/EC) has been instrumental in working towards a single European telecoms market. Finally, it identifies several key areas in which the Commission may be required to provide further guidance to Europe's telecoms regulators to ensure a level of consistency and predictability that will give market players the confidence to further invest in the EU market

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0271:FIN:EN:PDF>



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COM (2010) 275 - Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize 59122x1507xNK603 (DAS-59122-7xDAS-Ø15Ø7xMON-ØØ6Ø3-6) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council

COM (2010) 276 - Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize 1507x59122 (DAS-Ø15Ø7-1xDAS-59122-7) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council

COM (2010) 277 - Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize MON 88017 x MON 810 (MON-88Ø17-3 x MON-ØØ81Ø-6) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed (the 'Regulation') a number of requests were made to place on the market food and feed containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize :

- 59122x1507xNK603 - the request was submitted by Pioneer Overseas Corporation to the competent authority of the United Kingdom on 26 August 2005
- 1507x59122 (DAS-Ø15Ø7-1xDAS-59122-7) - the request was submitted by Dow AgroSciences Europe to the competent authority of the Netherlands on 26 May 2005
- MON 88017 x MON 810 (MON-88Ø17-3 x MON-ØØ81Ø-6) - the request was submitted by Monsanto Europe S.A. to the competent authority of the Czech Republic on 29 November 2005.

The European Food Safety Authority examined these requests and in all three cases gave a favourable opinion in accordance with Articles 6 and 18 of the Regulation. It considered that genetically modified maize is as safe as its non-genetically modified counterpart with respect to potential effects on human and animal health or the environment.



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Against this background, a draft Commission Decision authorising the placing on the Union market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize was submitted to the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health, on 9 February 2010, for vote. The Committee delivered no opinion: 13 Member States (183 votes) voted in favour, 10 Member States (112 votes) voted against, 3 Member States (46 votes) abstained and 1 Member State (4 votes) was not represented.

Consequently, pursuant to Article 35, paragraph 2 of the Regulation and in accordance with Article 5 of Council Decision 1999/468/EC modified by Council Decision 2006/512/EC, the Commission is submitting these proposals to the Council relating to the measures to be taken. The Council has three months in which to act by a qualified majority, and inform the Parliament.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0275:FIN:EN:PDF>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0276:FIN:EN:PDF>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0277:FIN:EN:PDF>

COM (2010) 278 - Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION amending Regulation (EC) No 1255/96 temporarily suspending the autonomous common customs tariff duties on certain industrial, agricultural and fishery products

The Commission, assisted by the Economic Tariff Questions Group, has reviewed all the requests for temporary suspension of autonomous common customs tariff duties on certain industrial and agricultural products. The requests for suspension relating to the above products were examined in the light of the criteria set out in the communication from the Commission concerning autonomous tariff suspensions and quotas. Following this review, the Commission considers that the suspension of duties is justified for the products listed in Annex I of the proposed Regulation. Products for which suspension is no longer in the Union's economic interests have been withdrawn.

The proposal is in line with agricultural, trade, enterprise, development and external relations policies. Especially this proposal is not at the expense of countries enjoying a preferential trading agreement with the EU such as candidate and potential candidate countries of the Western Balkans.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0278:FIN:EN:PDF>



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COM (2010) 282 - REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION: Report on Competition Policy 2009

On Thursday the 3rd of June the Commission published a report on its Competition policy for the year 2009. The topic chosen for this year is "Competition policy and the financial and economic crisis". On this basis, special attention is paid in this year's report to the European Commission's assessment of national measures adopted as a response to the financial and economic crisis, i.e. national schemes or measures targeting individual companies of the financial sector. In a similar way, particular attention is also given to the measures implemented within the Temporary Framework, to palliate the effects of the crisis on the real economy.

The report is divided into 6 sections. The first section of this report provides an overview of how the instruments of competition policy, namely the state aid, anti-trust and merger control rules, were further developed and applied. The second section discusses how these and other instruments were deployed in selected sectors. The third section gives an overview of consumer related activities developed last year. Section four focuses on cooperation within the European Competition Network (ECN) and with national courts while section five deals with international activities. In section six, a brief description of inter-institutional cooperation is given.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0282:FIN:EN:PDF>