

[ESMA updates Q&A on MAR](#)

The purpose of the Q&A document is to promote common supervisory approaches and practices in the application of MAR and its implementing measures. Today's Q&A include an update of the Q&A clarifying the scope of firms subject to the MAR provision to detect and report suspicious orders and transactions and new detailed answers on:

- the scope of the financial instruments subject to the market sounding regime under MAR; and
- the persons subject to the insider list requirements.

MAR is intended to guarantee the integrity of European financial markets and increase investor confidence. Any unlawful behaviour in the financial markets is prohibited. The concept of market abuse typically consists of insider dealing, unlawful disclosure of inside information, and market manipulation.

[ESMA updates Q&A on MAR](#)

The purpose of the Q&A document is to promote common supervisory approaches and practices in the application of MAR and its implementing measures. Today's Q&A include an update of the Q&A clarifying the scope of firms subject to the MAR provision to detect and report suspicious orders and transactions and new detailed answers on:

- the scope of the financial instruments subject to the market sounding regime under MAR; and
- the persons subject to the insider list requirements.

MAR is intended to guarantee the integrity of European financial markets and increase investor confidence. Any unlawful behaviour in the financial markets is prohibited. The concept of market abuse typically consists of insider dealing, unlawful disclosure of inside information, and market manipulation.

[Daily News 31 / 08 / 2017](#)

Émissions polluantes des voitures: de nouveaux tests plus réalistes obligatoires à partir du 1er septembre

À partir de demain, 1er septembre, les nouveaux modèles de voitures devront

passer des tests d'émissions révisés, plus fiables, avant de pouvoir circuler en Europe. Les émissions d'oxydes d'azote et d'autres particules, qui sont une des causes principales de la pollution de l'air, seront mesurées dans des conditions de conduite réelles (procédure RDE). Ce test sera complété par de nouveaux tests en laboratoire plus réalistes (procédure WLTP) pour toutes les émissions incluant le CO2 et la consommation de carburant ainsi que les émissions d'oxydes d'azote et d'autres particules. Ces nouvelles méthodes de mesure d'émissions sont un élément important de l'action de la Commission pour une industrie automobile plus responsable, compétitive et respectueuse de l'environnement. Jyrki **Katainen**, vice-président en charge de l'emploi, de la croissance, de l'investissement et de la compétitivité, a déclaré: "Ces nouvelles méthodes de mesure d'émissions représentent une étape majeure dans notre action pour s'assurer que nos voitures soient, d'ici aux prochaines années, plus propres et plus respectueuses de l'environnement. Mais il reste beaucoup à faire. Le scandale des émissions a montré que nous avons besoin de davantage d'indépendance dans les tests sur les voitures, plus de surveillance de marché et la possibilité pour la Commission d'intervenir en cas d'abus. La Commission a présenté en janvier 2016 une proposition ambitieuse dans ce sens. Elle est sur la table depuis et il est grand temps que le Parlement européen et le Conseil l'adoptent. Nous avons également besoin de poursuivre de façon décisive les efforts au niveau européen pour encourager les solutions de mobilité à faible taux d'émissions." Elżbieta **Bieńkowska**, commissaire pour le marché intérieur, l'industrie, l'entrepreneuriat et les PME, a ajouté: "Une évolution rapide vers des véhicules à faibles émissions est dans notre intérêt à tous étant donné que la santé publique et les risques environnementaux sont directement concernés. C'est également un enjeu crucial pour l'industrie automobile si elle veut rester compétitive au niveau mondial. Pour le moment, les voitures diesel font encore partie de notre quotidien et nous devons restaurer la confiance dans cette technologie. C'est pour cela que des tests plus réalistes pour les nouvelles voitures sont nécessaires. Pour celles qui roulent déjà sur nos routes, les États membres doivent prendre leurs responsabilités, appliquer la loi et prendre des mesures supplémentaires, avec les acteurs du secteur, pour réduire leurs émissions". Un [communiqué de presse](#), un [MÉMO](#) sur les différentes actions de l'UE pour réduire la pollution de l'air causée par les voitures, ainsi que des [clips vidéo](#) sur la manière dont les nouveaux tests sont réalisés, sont disponibles en ligne. (Pour plus d'informations: Lucia Caudet – Tel.: + 32 229 56182; Mirna Talko – Tel.: +32 229 87278; Maud Noyon – Tel.: +32 229 80379)

Investment Plan supports medical research, digital innovation and small businesses

The Investment Plan continues to deliver. Over the last week, the Plan's European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) has backed finance for [digital innovation in Sweden](#), access to finance for [small businesses in Poland](#) and [medical research in Austria](#). The European Investment Bank (EIB) is providing Swedish software developer inRiver with €8 million in financing to invest in research and development, expand its market reach and grow its customer base. The European Investment Fund (EIF) and national promotional bank Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK) are doubling the size of their loans to Polish

SMEs to PLN 2 billion (ca. €500 million). The loans are expected to reach close to 10,600 small businesses and entrepreneurs across Poland. The EIB is providing €25 million of financing to Austrian biotech company Apeiron Biologics to support the development of new pharmaceutical products to treat cancer, particularly a rare type affecting children. This is the second medical research project to be signed in recent weeks, after the EIB agreed a €35 million loan to German medical device company [MagForce](#) to support the development of a new approach to treating brain tumours. This new approach makes it possible to combat the tumour from within, while sparing surrounding healthy tissue. All of these agreements were made possible through the support of the Investment Plan for Europe, the so-called Juncker Plan. European Commission Vice-President Jyrki **Katainen**, responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, said: *“These transactions demonstrate the diversity, quality and impact of the investments made possible by the European Fund for Strategic Investments. Whether it is through supporting medical research projects or helping small businesses access the finance they need to expand and create jobs, the Investment Plan is delivering real results across the EU. A final agreement on the extension and reinforcement of the EFSI will allow it to do even more. Therefore we look forward to a swift conclusion to the negotiations by the co-legislators.”* The Investment Plan is now expected to trigger over €225 billion across Europe. For the latest figures country-by-country, see [here](#). (For more information: Annika Breidthardt – Tel.: +32 229 56153; Siobhán Millbright – Tel.: +32 229 57361)

State aid: Commission asks Spain to recover €5.8 million from Iberpotash

The European Commission has asked Spain to recover €5.8 million of illegal State aid granted to Iberpotash S.A. (renamed ICL Iberia Súrria & Sallent in 2014), a company which operates various mines of potash in Catalonia. The Commission’s [in-depth investigation](#) found that Iberpotash benefitted from two illegal support measures: unduly low financial guarantees for the restoration of its mining sites in Súrria and Balsareny/Sallent, and full public funding of a €7.9 million investment to cover a waste heap in Vilafruns. As regards the first measure, mining companies must provide guarantees to public authorities that can be drawn on to restore the environmental conditions of the site they operate. This ensures that these costs are not shifted on to the State, if the mining company fails to meet its environmental protection obligations. In the case of the guarantees provided by Iberpotash for Súrria in 2006 and Balsareny/Sallent in 2008, Spanish national courts have found that restoration costs for the sites had been set at an unjustifiably low level. Indeed, in 2016 the regional environmental authorities estimated the costs and set the guarantees at a significantly higher level. As regards the second measure, regional authorities financed the entire investment cost to reduce the negative environmental impact of the waste heap in Vilafruns in 2008 and 2009. EU rules do allow State aid to cover part of the investment costs incurred in improving environmental conditions beyond mandatory levels, but still require Iberpotash to bear 50% of such costs. As a result of both support measures, Iberpotash did not have to bear the costs of environmental protection that competing mining companies have to bear in the Union, thus

gaining an undue competitive advantage. On this basis, the Commission concluded that Iberpotash must pay guarantee fees reflecting the true remediation costs of its sites until 2016 and also return the excess investment costs that were entirely borne by the public authorities. In line with its standard practice, the Commission is asking Spain to recover from Iberpotash these amounts, totalling €5.8 million. More information will be available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the [public case register](#) under the case number [SA.35818](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

Concentrations : La Commission autorise l'acquisition du contrôle conjoint de deux hôtels en Italie par BNP Paribas et Starwood.

La Commission Européenne a approuvé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, l'acquisition du contrôle conjoint des hôtels Westin Palace de Milan et Westin Europa & Regina de Venise par le groupe BNP Paribas (France) et par Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, LLC (Etats-Unis). BNP Paribas est un fournisseur de services bancaires et financiers, en France et à l'international. Starwood est une filiale du groupe Marriott, groupe hôtelier actif dans le monde entier. La Commission a conclu que la concentration envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème de concurrence, car BNP Paribas ne possède ni ne gère d'hôtels en Italie. La transaction a été examinée dans le cadre de la procédure simplifiée de contrôle des concentrations. De plus amples informations sont disponibles sur le [site internet concurrence](#) de la Commission, dans le [registre public](#) des affaires sous le numéro d'affaire [M.8598](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

Concentrations: la Commission autorise l'acquisition de Primonial Holding par Bridgepoint

La Commission européenne a approuvé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, l'acquisition de contrôle exclusif de Primonial Holding, société mère du groupe Primonial (France), par Bridgepoint (Royaume-Uni). Primonial Holding est contrôlée conjointement par Crédit Mutuel Arkéa et Bridgepoint. Primonial Holding exerce une activité de gestion de patrimoine en France. Bridgepoint est un fonds de capital-investissement. La transaction concernait des marchés de services d'assurance, bancaires et immobiliers. La Commission a conclu que l'acquisition envisagée ne soulèverait aucun problème de concurrence, car les chevauchements entre les activités des entreprises sont très limités. La transaction a été examinée dans le cadre de la procédure simplifiée du contrôle des concentrations. De plus amples informations sont disponibles sur le site [internet concurrence de la Commission](#), dans [le registre public](#) des affaires de concurrence de la Commission, sous le numéro [M.8587](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

Concentrations : La Commission autorise l'acquisition du contrôle conjoint

d'une entreprise nouvellement créée par les sociétés ProSiebenSat.1, TF1 et Mediaset

La Commission européenne a approuvé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, l'acquisition du contrôle en commun d'une entreprise nouvellement créée sous forme d'entreprise commune par les sociétés ProSiebenSat.1 Media SE (Allemagne), Télévision Française 1 S.A. (France), appartenant au groupe Bouygues, et Mediaset S.p.A. (Italie). L'entreprise commune sera active dans le merchandising et vente, au niveau pan-européen, de l'inventaire publicitaire vidéo affiché avant, pendant et après le contenu vidéo disponible sur les médias numériques exploités par les parties ou par des tiers. La Commission a conclu que la concentration envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème de concurrence, compte tenu de son impact très limité sur la structure du marché sur le territoire de l'Espace économique européen. La transaction a été examinée dans le cadre de la procédure simplifiée de contrôle des concentrations. De plus amples informations sont disponibles sur le [site internet concurrence](#) de la Commission, dans le [registre public](#) des affaires sous le numéro d'affaire [M.8409](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

Eurostat: Le taux de chômage à 9,1% dans la zone euro

Dans la zone euro (ZE19), le taux de chômage corrigé des variations saisonnières s'est établi à 9,1% en juillet 2017, stable par rapport à juin 2017 et en baisse par rapport au taux de 10,0% de juillet 2016. Il s'agit du taux le plus faible enregistré dans la zone euro depuis février 2009. Dans l'UE28, le taux de chômage s'est établi à 7,7% en juillet 2017, stable par rapport à juin 2017 et en baisse par rapport au taux de 8,5% de juillet 2016. Cela demeure le taux le plus faible enregistré dans l'UE28 depuis décembre 2008. Ces chiffres sont publiés par Eurostat, l'office statistique de l'Union européenne. Un communiqué de presse est disponible [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Sara Soumillion – Tel.: +32 229 67094)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Hahn in Budapest for the preparation of the Eastern Partnership Summit

Johannes **Hahn**, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations is in Budapest, Hungary, today to participate at the informal Eastern Partnership [V4](#) ministerial meeting. The meeting is organised by the [Visegrád Group](#) and will focus on the preparation of the upcoming [Eastern Partnership Summit](#) (that will take place on 24 November in Brussels), as well as on stepping up cooperation on energy infrastructure, including energy efficiency. Commissioner met this morning with Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Visegrád Group – Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia – and of the Eastern Partnership countries – [Armenia](#), [Azerbaijan](#), [Belarus](#), [Georgia](#), the [Republic of Moldova](#) and [Ukraine](#). Earlier this morning, Commissioner

Johannes **Hahn** said: *“The upcoming Summit will be an opportunity to build on our achievements and to inject new dynamism into our relations. Differentiation and ownership remain pivotal in our engagement. Following this approach we have achieved crucial results such as three Association Agreements including their Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTA), the agreement we have negotiated with Armenia and the ongoing negotiations with Azerbaijan. Also, we are working full speed to implement and update the [“20 deliverables for 2020”](#), which results have an important impact on the life of the people. More must be done, our work and engagement has to continue and a non-confrontational nature of the Partnership is crucial for our joint success.”* The full [speech](#) is available online. (For more information: Maja Kocijancic – Tel.: +32 229 86570; Alceo Smerilli – Tel.: +32 229 64887)

European Commission appoints new Head of Regional Office in Milan

Mr Massimo Gaudina has been appointed the new Head of the European Commission’s Regional Office in Milan. Mr Gaudina, an Italian national, will take up office on 1 September 2017. He brings over 30 years of experience, of which over 20 years of institutional communications in the EU context. In his role, Mr Gaudina will represent the European Commission and will encourage the debate on EU issues, mainly in Northern Italy. More information is available in the press release [here](#) (also in [IT](#), [FR](#) and [DE](#)). (For more information: Mina Andreeva – Tel.: +32 229 91382; Alexander Winterstein – Tel.: +32 229 93265)

La Commission européenne organise son concours annuel pour les traducteurs en herbe

Pour la 11e année consécutive, le service de traduction de la Commission européenne organise le concours Juvenes Translatores. “EU60 – le 60e anniversaire de la signature du Traité instituant la Communauté européenne” sera le thème des textes qui seront proposés cette année à de jeunes traducteurs de l’Europe entière lors du concours Juvenes Translatores. Les inscriptions à la 11e édition de ce concours pour traducteurs en herbe organisé par le service de traduction de la Commission européenne débiteront le 1er septembre 2017 à midi. M. Günther H. Oettinger, commissaire européen chargé du budget, des ressources humaines et de la traduction, a déclaré à cet égard: «Il s’agit là d’une initiative formidable qui associe deux des valeurs les plus importantes de l’Europe: la diversité linguistique et le talent de la jeunesse. J’invite les écoles de toute l’Europe à participer à ce concours.» Dans un premier temps, les écoles peuvent s’inscrire via le site web <http://ec.europa.eu/translatores>. Les inscriptions sont ouvertes jusqu’au 20 octobre, à midi, et le formulaire d’inscription est disponible en ligne dans toutes les langues officielles de l’UE. Un communiqué de presse est disponible [ici](#). (Pour plus d’informations: Alexander Winterstein – Tel.: +32 229 93265; Andreana Stankova – Tel.: +32 229 57857) (*Updated on 01/09/2017 at 16:49 to insert a link to relevant additional material.)

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

Young translators to test their skills in the yearly European Commission contest

'EU 60' – the 60th anniversary of the signature of the Treaty establishing the European Community' will be the topic of the texts which young translators from across Europe will have to translate in this year's edition of *Juvenes Translatores*.

Registration for the 11th edition of the competition for young translators, organised by the European Commission's translation department, starts on 1 September 2017 at noon.

European Commissioner Günther H. **Oettinger** in charge of budget, human resources and translation said: *"This is a great initiative combining two of Europe's greatest values – language diversity and youth talent. I invite schools from across Europe to take part in this competition."*

The registration is first open for schools via the website <http://ec.europa.eu/translatores>. The registration period runs until 20 October at noon, and the application form is available online in all official languages of the EU.

At a second phase, a total of 751 schools are invited to provide the names of the students who will take part in the competition. The young translators – two to five per school – can be of any nationality and should be born in 2000.

They will have the chance to test their skills on 23 November 2017, the date of the competition. The contest will take place at the same time in all schools selected to participate.

During the competition, students will translate a one-page text from one official EU language into another. This makes a total of 552 language combinations of the EU's 24 official languages. Last year, students used 152 language combinations, including translating from Greek into Latvian, and from Bulgarian into Portuguese.

European Commission translators receive all translations, mark them and select one winner per country. This year's winners will be invited to Brussels in April 2018, to receive their prizes.

Background

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Translation has been organising the *Juvenes Translatores* (Latin for 'young translators') contest

every year since 2007. Its aim is to promote language learning in schools and give young people a taste of what it is like to be a translator. It is open to 17-year-old secondary school pupils and takes place at the same time in all selected schools across the EU. The contest has inspired and encouraged some of the participants to continue with language learning at university level and to become professional translators. The competition also emphasises Europe's rich linguistic diversity.

For More Information

[Juvenes Translatores website](#)

[Pictures from the 2017 Award Ceremony](#)

Follow the European Commission's translation department on Twitter:
[@translatores](#)

EU-Ukraine Association Agreement fully enters into force

The Association Agreement, including its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), is the main tool for bringing Ukraine and the EU closer together: it promotes deeper political ties and stronger economic links, as well as respect for common European values. The DCFTA provides a framework for modernising Ukraine's trade relations and economic development by opening up markets and harmonising laws, standards and regulations with EU and international norms.

President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude **Juncker**, said:
"Determination is a virtue. Today, in spite of all the challenges, we have made it. With the entry into force of the Association Agreement with Ukraine, the European Union is delivering on its promise to our Ukrainian friends. I thank all those who made it possible: those who stood on Maidan and those who are working hard to reform the country for the better. This is a day of celebration for our European continent."

Federica **Mogherini**, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, said:
"Today we finally achieve what we have been working on in the last years: a closer association between the European Union and Ukraine. This means closer ties between our citizens, bigger markets and more opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs, increased sharing of experience, information and expertise. It shows that we share the same objectives and that the Ukrainian people can count on the European Union's support and cooperation for the years to come."

European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes **Hahn** said: *“Generations of Ukrainian citizens to come will reap the benefits of closer association with the EU. The first concrete results of implementation of the Agreement can already be seen: Ukraine’s exports to the EU have increased and the EU has confirmed its position as Ukraine’s first trading partner. Ukraine’s recent reform efforts have been unprecedented, while much work remains such as in the fight against corruption, which must be pursued. The European Union will continue its support for Ukraine’s reform efforts, with both expertise and financial support.”*

The European Union is unwavering in its support for Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the continuing, ambitious efforts of the Ukrainian authorities to reform the country’s institutions and economy, which would unlock the full potential of the Association Agreement and bring its full benefits to the Ukrainian people.

Under the Association Agreement, Ukraine has committed to structural reforms in the areas of democracy, human rights, rule of law, good governance, trade and sustainable development. Enhanced cooperation on environmental protection, social development and protection, transport, consumer protection, equal opportunities, education, youth and culture, industry and energy is also foreseen in the Association Agreement. The entry into force of the agreement will give a new impetus to the cooperation in areas such as foreign and security policy, justice, taxation, public finance management, science and technology, education and digital technology.

Background:

The Association Agreement was negotiated between 2007 and 2011 and signed on 21 March and 27 June 2014. Substantial parts of the Association Agreement have been applied provisionally since 1 November 2014 and 1 January 2016 for the DCFTA.

For more information:

[Factsheet: EU-Ukraine relations](#)

[Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine](#)