



TODAYS  
News



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### **The EU remains the world's largest aid donor in 2014**

The European Union and its Member States have kept their place as the world's largest aid donor in 2014. They provided more than half of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) reported last year to the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD/DAC). This is shown by data published today by the [Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development \(OECD\)](#). The new figures show that EU collective ODA (i.e. ODA from both EU institutions and Member States) reached 0.42% of EU Gross National Income (GNI) in 2014, increasing to EUR 58.2 billion. This means an increase of 2.4% from 2013. EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven **Mimica**, commented: *“I am proud that the EU has upheld its place as the world's leading provider of ODA in recent years, despite the difficult economic situation. But we are still some way from meeting our ambitious targets. 2015 is a crucial year for the future of sustainable development, with negotiations on the post-2015 agenda and financing for development set to conclude. I firmly believe that we should recommit to reaching the 0.7% target as a crucial contribution to securing an ambitious outcome to the post-2015 negotiations.”* A [press release](#) and [factsheet](#) is available online.

### **Mergers: Commission opens in-depth investigation into the proposed merger of TeliaSonera and Telenor's Danish telecommunications activities**

The European Commission has opened an in-depth investigation to assess whether the proposed joint venture between the Danish operators TeliaSonera AB and Telenor ASA is in line with the EU Merger Regulation. Both companies provide telecommunications services in several European countries. The Commission has concerns that on the Danish mobile telecommunications markets, the merged entity would face insufficient competitive constraint from the only two remaining players. This could lead to higher prices and less innovation. The opening of an in-depth investigation does not prejudice the outcome of the investigation. The Commission now has 90 working days, until 19 August 2015, to take a decision. A full press release is available [here](#). More information will be available on the [competition](#) website, in the Commission's [public case register](#) under the case number [M.7419](#).

## **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Talisman by Repsol**

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of Talisman Energy Inc. of Canada ("Talisman") by Repsol S.A. of Spain ("Repsol"). Talisman is active in the exploration, development, production, transportation, and marketing of crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids. Talisman's activities are concentrated in the North Sea and outside the European Economic Area (EEA). Repsol is active in all activities relating to the oil and gas industry including exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas, refining and marketing activities of oil products, petrochemical products, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as well as marketing activities relating to natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG). The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would not raise competition concerns, given the parties' moderate combined market positions resulting from the proposed transaction and the presence of a number of strong players in all the markets where the parties' activities overlap. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.7519](#).

## **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Eversholt by Cheung Kong (Holdings) Limited**

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of Eversholt Investment Group S. à r. l. (Eversholt) of Luxembourg by Cheung Kong (Holdings) Limited (CKH) of Hong Kong. Eversholt supplies all types of railway rolling stock and associated equipment, as well as associated maintenance services, to British passenger train operating companies and freight companies. CKH is active in, among others, investment holding, property development and investment, hotel operation, property and project management, investment in infrastructure business and securities and ownership and leasing of aircrafts. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would not raise competition concerns, in particular because the companies are not active in the same markets. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number M.7528.

## **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of office real estate properties by Eurazeo and Groupe Crédit Agricole**

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of joint control over office real estate properties located in Villeurbanne, France, by Eurazeo and Groupe Crédit Agricole, of France. Eurazeo is an investment company active in various sectors, including real estate. Groupe Crédit Agricole is a provider of banking and insurance services, which invests in real estate properties. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would not raise competition concerns, given the Parties' moderate combined market position in the real estate sector in France and, in particular, in the area of Lyon where the acquired assets are located. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number M. 7556.

## **EUROSTAT: Volume of retail trade down by 0.2% in euro area and stable in EU28 in February 2015**

In February 2015 compared with January 2015, the seasonally adjusted volume of retail trade fell by 0.2% in the euro area (EA19) and remained stable in the EU28, according to estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In January retail trade rose by 0.9% and 0.7% respectively. A press release is available [here](#).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Commissioner Johannes Hahn pays an official visit to Azerbaijan

Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes **Hahn** pays an official visit to [Azerbaijan](#) from 8-9 April. The main focus of the mission will be discussions around on-going consultations on the European Neighbourhood Policy Review, the upcoming Eastern Partnership Riga Summit and EU-Azerbaijan bilateral relations. It will be the first visit of Mr. Hahn to Azerbaijan since his appointment as Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations in 2014.

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See what will be discussed in the European Commission, European Council and the European Parliament [here](#)

