

Weekly Policy News Summary

Year 2018 – week 6

EP Plenary: Geo – blocking resolution adopted

Parliament adopted legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on addressing geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment within the internal market and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 and Directive 2009/22/EC ([COM\(2016\)0289](#) – C8-0192/2016 – [2016/0152\(COD\)](#)) (Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading).

The new legislation will allow online buyers in the EU to buy goods and services without being re-routed to another website because of their nationality or place of residence. It applies to physical goods such as clothes and electronics, as well as hotel bookings and car rentals, but does not cover copyrighted content such as e-books, e-music, video games or e-films.

However, a review clause that in two years' time, the European Commission will review the law, considering ending geo-blocking in additional sectors such as the audio-visual or transport sectors, is included in the text. The new rules should enter into force by the end of 2018 so that EU citizens can freely buy online from the Single Market.

Smarter use of EU resources: financial instruments in EU funds already halfway to target

New data uploaded on the [Cohesion Open Data Platform](#) show that half of the European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds envelope planned to be invested via financial instruments over the 2014-2020 budget period has already been allocated to generate additional investment through financial products such as loans, guarantees or equity. The new "financial instrument" data of the Cohesion Open Data Platform will enable viewers to follow the progress made towards the target on an annual basis and [by country](#).

Brexit: The Commission publishes draft legal text on transitional arrangements

The Commission has published [a draft text of the transitional arrangements](#) to be included in the Article 50 Withdrawal Agreement, following the United Kingdom's request to remain in the Single Market and the Customs Union for a short time-limited period after its withdrawal from the EU on 30 March 2019. The text reflects the clear, detailed mandate provided to the Commission by the Member States on such possible transitional arrangements.

As the UK will remain part of the Single Market and the Customs Union (with all four freedoms) until 31 December 2020, the UK will remain bound by EU law and the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice. Union acquis will continue to apply in full to and in the UK during this period. Any changes made to the acquis during this time should automatically apply. As the UK will be a third country as of 30 March 2019, it will no longer be represented in Union institutions, agencies, bodies and offices. The draft text (see [here](#)) will now be discussed amongst the EU27 Member States, before being formally transmitted to the UK.
