

A satellite night view of Europe, where the continent is illuminated by a dense network of city lights, appearing as a bright orange and yellow glow against the dark blue of the surrounding oceans. The lights are most concentrated in the major urban centers and along the coastlines.

cicero/amo
strategic advisors

The European Commission Work Programme 2022

Cicero/amo | October 2021

Introduction

“ *This Commission’s vision for a digital and sustainable future is still guiding its actions across the board. With some major proposals still expected for the end of 2021, next year will not be lacking in ambition. We’ll see the development of the EU’s capital markets union alongside the digitalisation of financial services, customs and VAT, and the implementation of the global agreement on digital taxation. 2022 will also be the year of reforming the chemicals sector and combatting pollution, while agreeing on major proposals from this year.* ”



Helena Walsh, Managing Director, EU Public Affairs, Cicero/amo

“ *After two years in recovery mode, the European Commission has now moved into growth mode, and is looking at updating its legislative framework to promote further cross-border trade and service provision, while sustaining the EU’s technological and financial autonomy. In 2022, we’ll see a renewed push for cross-sectoral harmonisation, especially in financial services and the digital economy, as well as initiatives aimed at building the EU’s capacities in an effort to complete its digital and green transitions.* ”



Jörn-Jakob Röber, Director, Cicero/amo

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European Green Deal

Towards corporate carbon neutrality, sustainable products and zero-pollution

Overview



With major climate and energy legislation in progress in Europe, the focus is shifting to stepping up international efforts, curbing pollution and protecting the environment through reform of the chemicals framework, and further digitalisation in the transport sector (more below).

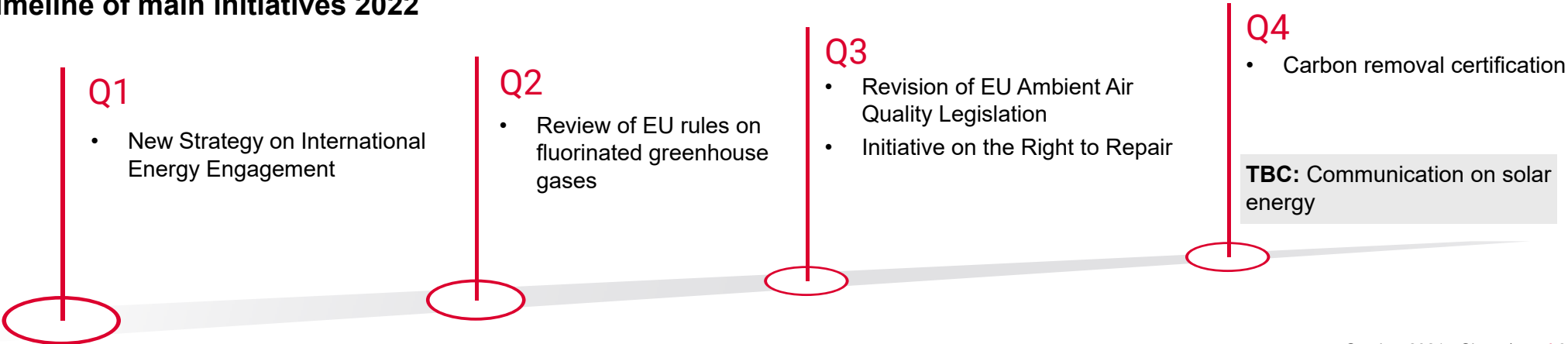
Plans to build a circular economy, based on more sustainable products and empowered consumers (publication pending) will be bolstered by fleshing out the “right to repair”. Manufacturers, European or other, should keep a close eye out as the EU leverages its consumer base to drive change at design and production process level.

“ *The next piece of the puzzle in greening corporate strategy is coming up in 2022. Corporate attention should be on the upcoming measures to harmonise carbon removal/neutrality certification, as this will affect any organisation with a climate neutrality pledge in place or under development.* ”



Sophie-Charlotte Walter, Senior Account Manager, Cicero/ammo

Timeline of main initiatives 2022



Digital Economy

Digitalisation of VAT and customs rules, wrapping up competition reforms and building technological sovereignty

Overview



In 2022, the EU will take major steps in shaping the digital economy. The Digital Services Act and Digital Market Act, groundbreaking proposals to regulate the online platform economy are shaping up. These will be complemented by several updates to the EU’s competition rulebook by year end. While attention may be shifting towards compliance with new obligations and questions

of enforcement, proposals on minimum corporate tax and digital tax are sure to keep discussions lively.

In parallel, the EU will launch strategic initiatives to underpin the EU’s technological sovereignty, build a European data economy and develop a production hub for semiconductor chips.

“ With the aim of continuing work on its ambition to make Europe fit for the digital age, the European Commission will focus its attention on horizontal legislation. For online players, the final reforms to EU competition instruments and digital tax will be key. ”



Matej Zezlin, Account Manager, Cicero/amo

Timeline of main initiatives 2022

Q2

- European Chips Act
- Revision of the vertical block exemption Regulation and the vertical guidelines

Q3

- European Cyber Resilience Act
- VAT for the Digital Age package: Revision of the VAT Directive and of the Council regulation on VAT administrative cooperation

Q4

- Revision of the horizontal block exemption Regulation and the horizontal guidelines
- Revision of the Notice on market definition

TBC: Proposal on implementation of OECD’s global agreement on reallocation of taxing rights

Financial Services

Development of the EU’s Capital Markets Union and the Digital Finance framework

Overview



With respect to financial services, the Work Programme indicates the continued strategic priority of supervisory convergence. In essence, the direction can be viewed as common supervision, but not necessarily common supervisors, as the future balance between EU-level regulators and national competent authorities is still uncertain.

2022 will be a focal year for the development of the EU’s financial services framework, not least with the completion of the Banking Union with Basel III and capital markets union proposals such as the review of the SME Listing Act and Money Market Funds Regulation. At the same time, 2022 will see the rapid development of EU digital finance through the Open Finance framework and Instant Payments proposal.

“ Nearly one year after the City of London’s official departure from the EU, the European Commission is reviewing most of the capital market union’s pillars, including AIFMD, MiFID II/MiFIR and the MMF Regulation. The review of these rules, alongside the introduction of new legislative regimes aimed at fostering harmonisation and retail participation, mean that financial markets participants must remain aware – and stay active – in the EU financial policy space.



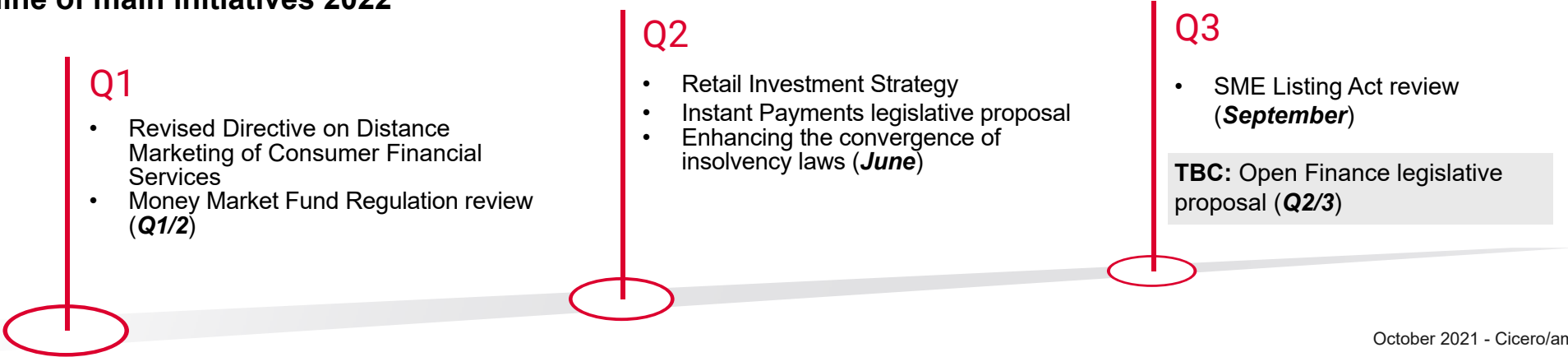
Alexandros Nikolaidis
Senior Account Manager
Cicero/amo

“ The digital transition is a flagship priority of the von der Leyen Commission and making the benefits of digital finance available to European consumers is a clear highlight of the Work Programme. The Commission notes that digital transactions increased during the pandemic, and the Instant Payments proposal (expected for Q2) aims to deliver a pan-European instant payments system. Additionally, through the Open and Digital Finance frameworks, the EU aims to boost its Digital Single Market and jumpstart the growth of European fintech start-ups on the global stage.



John Bethell
Account Manager
Cicero/amo

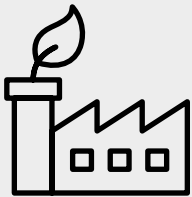
Timeline of main initiatives 2022



Chemicals

Towards sustainability – further regulating risks posed by chemicals and tackling plastics pollution

Overview



Following last October’s Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, laying out the roadmap for EU chemicals policy in the era of the European Green Deal, 2022 will see further progress made on many of the actions outlined. In pursuit of a “toxic-free environment”, the initiatives listed below range from measures to address specific types of substances, to changes to central pieces

of EU chemicals legislation such as the CLP Regulation. More time will be needed to work towards a targeted revision of the REACH regulation. Finally, the Commission also aims to address plastic pollution through policy work on biodegradable and compostable plastics, as well as measures on tackling microplastics released in the environment.

“ 2022 is a critical year for the EU’s chemicals policy, with many of the proposals announced in the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability finally being published. Producers and users of chemicals in the broadest sense should stay ahead of developments. ”



Tim Davidson, Senior Account Executive, Cicero/amo

Timeline of main initiatives 2022

Q2

- Policy framework for bio-based biodegradable and compostable plastics (**April**)
- Revision of the Classification, Labelling, and Packaging (CLP) Regulation (**May**)

Q4

- Revision of the Restriction of Hazardous Substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS) Directive
- Measures to reduce the release of microplastics in the environment
- Restriction on microplastics
- Horizontal proposal for reallocation of EU technical and scientific work on chemicals to EU agencies
- Revision of the Detergents Regulation (**December**)

Travel, Transport & Space

From sustainability to digitalisation, seamless use and greater traveller's rights

Overview



In line with the 2020 Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, the Commission continues to pursue these twin objectives. After 'Fit for 55', the automotive sector's attention should be on its transformation towards a more circular economy and foundational questions regarding access to in-vehicle data. Mobility providers, intermediaries, and consumers should be watching the transition towards multimodality and Mobility as a Service (MaaS) with great interest.

In a world of competing powers, space has become a critical domain for the EU to capitalise upon in the digitalised age. The below should help European industries benefit from high-quality satellite data, strengthen the EU's security and autonomy, and reinforce the EU's objective of being a leading actor in space.

“
In 2022, the European Commission is clearly looking to extend and reap the benefits of digitalisation. Both the envisaged digital interconnectedness between transport modes across the EU and the ambition to improve open strategic autonomy in space and satellite communications underline this ambition.
”



Daan Cortenbach, Senior Account Executive, Cicero/amo

Timeline of main initiatives 2022

Q2

- EU Strategy for Space Traffic Management
- Building an EU space-based global secure communication system

Q4

- Multimodal digital mobility services
- Revision of the end-of-life vehicles Directive and the Directive on the type approval of motor vehicles
- Review of the CO2 emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles
- Revision of the Package Travel Directive (PTD) - Adaption to COVID-19 context

Get in touch...

If you would like to speak to us about this document or how we can support your organisation, please do **contact a member of the EU Public Affairs team:**



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