

EFB September Monthly Update

1. State of the Union 2023

On **13 September 2023**, **President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen** discussed **the achievements accomplished so far during her mandate and addressed proposals which remain for the remainder of her mandate.**

The speech highlighted the following key points:

- Climate Change, biodiversity and ecosystem services, forestry, food security, agriculture –sustainable forms of agriculture.
- She announced a launch of strategic dialogue on the future of agriculture in the EU.
- She addressed the three major economic challenges for industry in the coming year: labour and skills shortages, inflation and making business easier for the EU’s companies.
- The Commission will make the first legislative propose to reduce reporting obligations at the EU level by 25% and work with Member States to reduce reporting by 25% also at national level.
- Companies need access to key technologies.
- Continue to go for open and fair trade.
- Look further ahead to ensure Europe remains competitive while achieving the twin transition.
- AI technology, data protection, privacy rights.

For further information visit the European Commission’s website [here](#).

2. SME Relief Package

On **12 September 2023**, **the Commission released the SME Relief package.**

The SME Package contains three points EFB has been lobbying for over the last year namely:

- recognising measures for mid-caps,
- successful business transfers,
- and access to skilled staff.

It also includes:

- New measures for short-term relief,
- An SME Envoy reporting directly to the Commission President, reporting to the Commissioner for Internal Market on all SME-related activities conducted in conjunction with the services of DG GROW, will be appointed.
- Measures that will aim to boost SMEs’ long-term competitiveness.
- Measures to strengthen fairness in the business environment across the Single Market.
- The Commission will propose a new Late Payment Regulation, to reinforce EU rules to combat late payments in commercial transactions.
- The Commission will propose a tax simplification directive establishing a Head Office Tax system for SMEs.

For more in-depth information on the SME relief Package visit, the European Commission’s website [here](#) and the press release [here](#).

3. EU Listing Package

On the 7th of December 2022, the European Commission put forward the EU Listing Package. This put forward measures to develop the EU's Capital Markets Union (CMU). It has three main goals: to harmonise some of the corporate insolvency rules within the EU, reduce administrative burden on companies of all sizes via a new Listing Act, and making the EU's clearing services more resilient.

It consists of three legislative proposals:

- **Multiple-vote share structures in companies that seek the admission to trading of their shares on an SME growth market**
- **Amending Regulations (EU) 2017/1129, (EU) No 596/2014 and (EU) No 600/2014 to make public capital markets in the Union more attractive for companies and to facilitate access to capital for small and medium-sized enterprises**
- **Amending Directive 2014/65/EU to make public capital markets in the Union more attractive for companies and to facilitate access to capital for small and medium-sized enterprises and repealing Directive 2001/34/EC**

Recently, the **Economic and Monetary Affairs committee (ECON)**, the committee responsible for the file at the European Parliament, met and **considered the amendments of the EU Listing Package**.

There is **a vote in ECON committee on the 24 of October 2023 for all three legislative proposals**.

For **the multiple-vote share structures there is a vote in a plenary scheduled for November 2023**.

4. Multiple-vote share structures

On the 7th of December 2022, the European Commission put forward proposals to develop the EU's Capital Markets Union (CMU). Within this was a Listing Act package which includes ***a proposal for a directive on multiple-vote share structures in companies that seek admission to trading of their shares on an SME growth market***. It is intended to **establish common rules on multiple-vote share structures and ensure the consistent implementation of multiple vote share structures across all of the EU's Member States for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)**.

- The lead committee on the file is the **Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) committee**.
- There are two other European Parliamentary committees the Legal Affairs Committee and Industry, Research and Energy Committee (JURI and ITRE respectively) that were to offer opinions on the file. Of the two committees, the ITRE committee decided not to give an opinion on the file while the JURI committee gave one.
- On the 19th September 2023, the JURI Committee voted on a draft opinion and on amendments on the file.
- The ECON Committee's vote on the file is due to take place on the **24th October 2023**.

For more information visit the file's [legislative observatory](#).

5. Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)

The European Commission published a proposal for a Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CSDDD) on the 23rd of February 2022. According to the European Commission, the proposal aims to "... foster sustainable and responsible corporate behaviour and to anchor human rights and environmental considerations in companies' operations and corporate governance."

- According to a meeting agenda from the Council of the EU, on the 6th October 2023, there will be a meeting in the Working Party on Company Law where the Attachés of the CSDDD file will be discussing Articles 4 and 10 of the CSDDD.
- The CSDDD is currently in interinstitutional negotiations (trilogue) stage where the European Commission, European Parliament and the Council of the European Union discuss the file. There have been three trilogues so far, and another is expected in November.

For more information on the CSDDD, visit the file's legislative observatory [here](#).