

## **NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 18/2020**

### **Autumn 2020 Economic Forecast**

Economic activity in Europe suffered a severe shock in the first half of the year and rebounded strongly in the third quarter as containment measures were gradually lifted. However, the resurgence of the pandemic in recent weeks is resulting in disruptions as national authorities introduce new public health measures to limit its spread:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/economy-finance/ip136\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/economy-finance/ip136_en.pdf)

### **EU reaches political agreement on updated enforcement regulation**

The Council presidency has reached an agreement with the European Parliament on a revised enforcement regulation. The aim of this regulation is to better protect the EU's trade interests and rights in the context of the current blockage of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) dispute settlement system. The regulation also ensures that the EU can enforce its trade rights if one of its partners blocks the normal dispute settlement mechanism under bilateral treaties. Member states still have to approve the agreement by qualified majority:  
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/10/28/trade-eu-reaches-political-agreement-on-updated-enforcement-regulation/pdf>

### **Commission report on the technical roadside inspection of commercial vehicles circulating in the European Union**

The Commission published a report to Parliament and Council in which they assess the directive on technical roadside inspection of commercial vehicles circulating in the European Union. Regarding the conformity of the national measures preliminary assessment has shown that the implementation in the Member States is overall satisfactory. Nevertheless, the Commission will continue to monitor the situation closely and carry out an ex-post evaluation in due course:  
<https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2020/EN/COM-2020-676-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>