

Autumn Update 2026

Recent corporate developments and what you should have on your radar.

Irish merger control notification thresholds reverted to pre-1 July 2026 levels

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) announced on 13 October 2026 that the increases to the Irish merger control notification thresholds that commenced on 1 July 2026 have lapsed. As a result, the pre-1 July 2026 thresholds apply to transactions on or after 30 September 2026 (and also apply to transactions agreed prior to 30 September which either: (i) have not yet been implemented or (ii) which were implemented on or after 30 September 2026).

The higher Irish merger notification control thresholds introduced on 1 July 2026 lapsed because of a procedural issue in the legislative approval process for the relevant statutory instrument. The previous thresholds ((i) aggregate turnover in Ireland of all the undertakings involved of at least **€60 million**, and (ii) turnover in Ireland of at least **€10 million for each of two or more undertakings concerned**) have been reinstated from **30 September 2026**. These thresholds apply until such time as new legislation is introduced.

Please note that the Irish merger control notification requirements for media mergers remain unaffected.

[Read more](#)

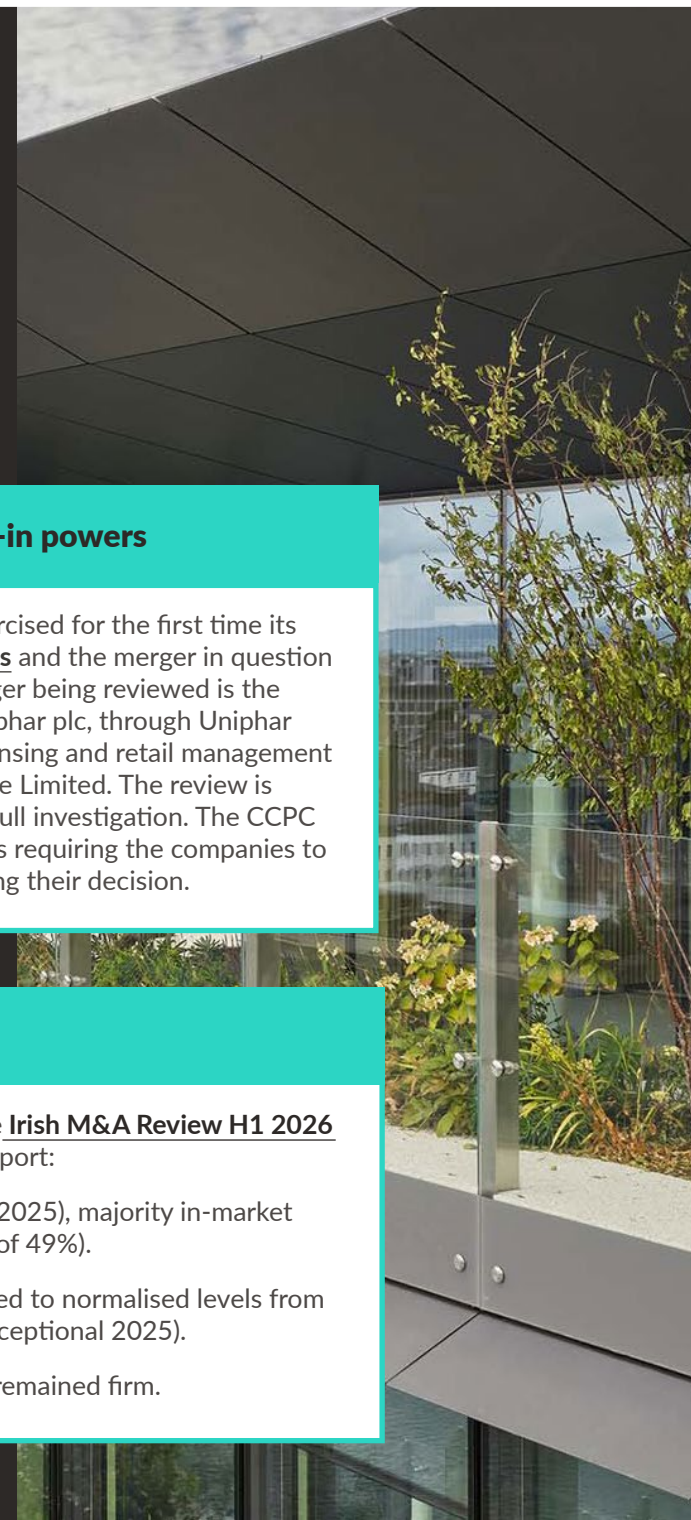
CCPC exercising its call-in powers

In March 2026 the CCPC exercised for the first time its below threshold **call in powers** and the merger in question is still under review. The merger being reviewed is the completed acquisition by Uniphar plc, through Uniphar Wholesale Limited, of a dispensing and retail management software company, TouchStore Limited. The review is currently at Phase 2 stage, a full investigation. The CCPC has imposed interim measures requiring the companies to operate independently pending their decision.

M&A performance:

Some key highlights from the **Irish M&A Review H1 2026** | **Renatus Capital Partners** report:

- Deal Volume: 262 (up on 2025), majority in-market transactions (an increase of 49%).
- Private equity (PE) returned to normalised levels from 2024 (down 38% from exceptional 2025).
- PE-backed trade activity remained firm.



EU Inc.

We are monitoring the **EU proposal** for a 28th regime, a Europe wide single set of company rules that would bring flexibility and reduce the administrative burden for companies with the aim of making the EU more competitive and attractive to start-ups and scale-ups. It is being treated as a priority legislative measure intended to deepen the Single Market.

The EU Commission has proposed introducing the regime by way of regulation (see [here](#) for the proposed regulation). Amongst the proposed key features of EU Inc. are:

- **Faster registration:** EU Inc. will allow a company to be founded within 48 hours, for less than €100 and with no minimum share capital requirements.
- **Fully digital operations:** corporate processes will be digital by default.
- **Faster and cheaper restarts:** EU Inc. companies will have access to fully digital liquidation procedures. Innovative startups will have access to simplified insolvency procedures.
- **Access to the stock exchange:** Member States will be allowed to give EU Inc. companies access to the stock exchange.
- **Full access to the Single Market:** EU Inc. companies can choose the Member State in which they incorporate. The proposal includes a blacklist of prohibited national practices to ensure EU Inc. companies are treated the same as other limited liability companies formed under EU Member State laws.
- **Strong safeguards against abuse:** national employment and social laws are not affected by the proposal. They will apply to EU Inc. companies the same way they apply to other businesses under national law.
- **Flexibility of shares:** EU Inc. companies will have the flexibility to create different classes of shares with varying economic or voting rights to help founders protect their businesses against hostile takeovers.
- **Employee stock ownership plans:** EU Inc. companies may be permitted to set up an optional common EU employee stock option plan (EU-ESO), with harmonised timing for the taxation of employee stock options under the EU-ESO. Taxation of any income derived under the EU-ESO will be deferred to when the shares are disposed of.

[Read more](#)



Consultation closed on limited partnerships questions

During summer 2026 the Department **held a consultation** giving the public an opportunity to provide their views on certain aspects of Irish limited partnerships that may be reformed in upcoming legislation in the proposed Miscellaneous Provisions (Registration of Limited Partnerships and Business Names) Bill.

In essence it asked **three** key questions:

1

Partner limits: Should the 20-partner limit be increased?

The Department is considering increasing the maximum number of partners to 149. This proposal would bring the number of partners in line with the maximum member limits for private companies limited by shares under Irish company law.

2

Should Ireland introduce a statutory whitelist of permitted limited partner activities?

Under the existing regime, a limited partner may lose limited liability if it takes part in management of the partnership. However, the legislation does not define what constitutes “management.” The Department noted that comparable jurisdictions have statutory whitelists of permitted activities and that stakeholders had highlighted the need for clearer guidance on permitted activities.

3

Should limited partners have greater flexibility around capital contributions?

Currently, limited partners must make a capital contribution which cannot be withdrawn during the life of the partnership without loss of limited liability.

We await the outcome of the consultation process

Gender Balance on Boards

By 30 June 2026 relevant Irish registered listed companies had to achieve a target of at least **40% non-executive** directors' positions comprised of the underrepresented sex.

The next deadline of 30 November 2026 requires that relevant listing companies must have published on their websites their objectives for improving gender balance for their **executive** directors. This is a new annual obligation under the **European Union (Gender Balance on Boards of Certain Companies) Regulations 2025**. The objectives and the steps to achieve the objectives had to be set by 30 June 2026.

Annual Minister reporting obligations

Relevant companies must also annually (commencing on and from 30 November 2026) furnish the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality with the following information:

- Gender representation of the board – distinguishing executive and non-executive directors (uploaded to a specific website, the Gender Pay Gap Portal)
- Information on measures taken to achieve the 40% **non-executive** directors threshold
- Information on measures taken to achieve improved gender balance amongst executive directors
 - If the objectives are not achieved, they must:
 - explain the reasons why and
 - provide a description of measures taken/to be taken to achieve the objectives.

For companies that failed to meet the target of 40% non-executive directors to be members from the underrepresented sex they must provide the Minister with their documented measures to comply with their statutory obligations to achieve the threshold.

[Read more](#)

Beneficial ownership information

The new rules that limit access to beneficial ownership data to those who can demonstrate a legitimate interest will commence in November 2026.

Inward Investment Screening

The **first annual report** on the screening of third country transactions confirms that the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment did not use his call in-power on any transaction.

The average time for an initial assessment was within 10 days, with approximately two thirds of notifications assessed within this timescale.

92 transactions were closed in 2025 with 66 having no screening notice issued. 26 transactions had a screening notice issued and an in-depth investigation completed. Of those 26 transactions, two transactions were approved subject to conditions to ensure that contractual arrangements relating to the provision of critical services by the target company were maintained.

Screening decisions were issued in less than 40 days in approximately two thirds of cases that had an in-depth investigation.

Of the 26 transactions, the activities of the relevant target entities related to or impacted upon critical infrastructure, critical technologies and dual-use items, supply of critical inputs including energy or raw materials, and access to sensitive information.

[Read more](#)

[Updated guidance](#) was issued in May 2026.

New directors' residential addresses – a new approach

The Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment (the **Department**) has announced a proposal to amend the Companies Act 2014 regarding the treatment of residential addresses, to strike a balance between the right to privacy of individuals, the importance of transparency in relation to company officers and ensuring continuing access to director addresses in particular circumstances. It is proposed to include the change within the anticipated Co-operative Societies Bill.

The new treatment of residential addresses will also be included in the Miscellaneous Provisions (Registration of Limited Partnerships and Business Names) Bill.

It is likely to be 2027 before the Co-operative Societies Bill will progress through the Oireachtas.

[Read more](#)

The Companies (Corporate Governance, Enforcement and Regulatory Provisions) Act 2024

The final provisions have not yet been commenced.

EU Listing Act

The final wave of amendments to the Prospectus Regulation and the Market Abuse Regulation took effect under the EU Listing Act on and from 5 June 2026, introducing a new standardised and streamlined format for prospectuses.

Ireland has decided to raise the domestic thresholds for public offers of securities not requiring a prospectus to €12m, with only a summary prospectus required. The amendments to Ireland's European Union (Prospectus) Regulations 2019 to affect these changes are awaited.

[Read more](#)

Multiple-vote shares

The **Multiple Vote Share Structures Directive** must be transposed by 4 December 2026. The Department consulted last year but no implementation legislation has been enacted yet.

In the Courts

Greene v Greene

The **High Court** has held that shareholders cannot use section 179 Companies Act 2014 to resolve 50:50 deadlocks, so alternative avenues need to be pursued to break a deadlock.

Additionally, section 179 cannot be used for deadlocks in director meetings.

This case highlights the importance of building in dispute resolution mechanisms for deadlock in 50:50 situations.

Jautiva

The **European Court of Justice** in a preliminary ruling held that EU law does not require the disclosure of shareholder information of all shareholders of public limited liability companies.

The Court had to balance the rights to privacy and data protection of individuals against other legitimate interests and indicated that EU law precludes the online disclosure of personal data relating to shareholders where access is not subject to any conditions, such as a legitimate interest, even if such disclosure pursues an objective of general interest recognised by the European Union.

This decision is in line with the decision in Luxembourg Business Registers on beneficial ownership data.

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