



BUREAU VAN DIJK

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Western Europe M&A Review August 2018

The following report details mergers and acquisitions activity in Western Europe in August 2018 using data from the Zephyr database.

It focuses on deal activity by target company.

Click [here](#) to access the raw data in an Excel spreadsheet.

Western Europe M&A value declines in August

Both the volume and value of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) targeting companies based in Western Europe declined to 1,819 deals worth an aggregate EUR 48,617 million in August.

In terms of value, this represents a 68 per cent decline month-on-month (July: EUR 150,184 million) and a decrease of 46 per cent from EUR 89,277 million in August 2017, making the four weeks under review the lowest recorded result since August 2016 (EUR 47,572 million).

By volume, August fell 27 per cent and 8 per cent from 2,484 deals in July 2018 and 1,974 deals in August 2017, respectively. It is worth noting that August is often a quiet month in terms of the value of announced deals featuring Western European targets.

Western Europe deals by volume and value

Announced date	No of deals	Total deal value (mil EUR)
Aug-18	1,819	48,617
Jul-18	2,484	150,184
Jun-18	2,518	77,085
May-18	2,654	199,876
Apr-18	2,414	115,250
Mar-18	2,609	186,960
Feb-18	2,535	127,976
Jan-18	2,559	76,195
Dec-17	2,430	108,738
Nov-17	2,730	84,908
Oct-17	2,542	73,799
Sep-17	2,275	68,988
Aug-17	1,974	89,277



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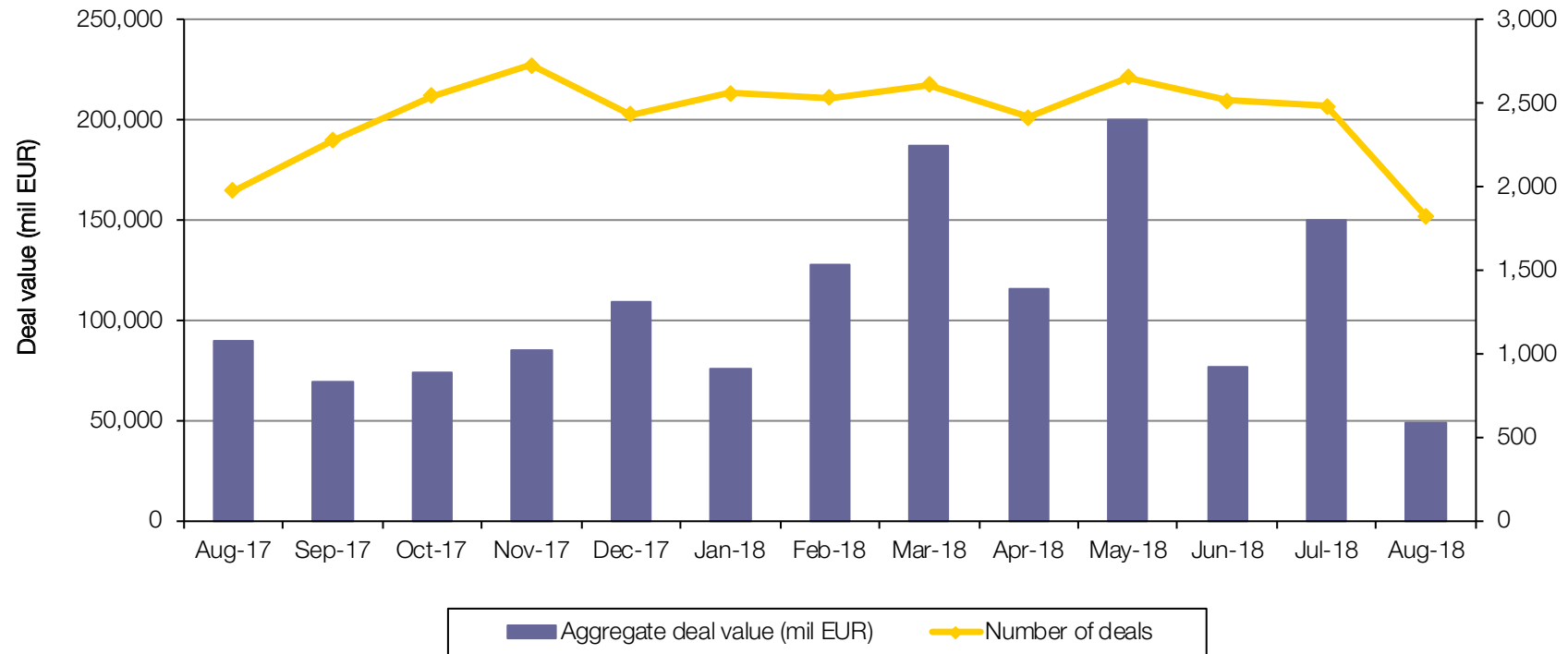


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Western Europe deals by volume and value



Expanded EU of 28 countries deals by volume and value

Announced date	No of deals	Total deal value (mil EUR)
Aug-18	1,849	47,854
Jul-18	2,539	143,732
Jun-18	2,735	71,468
May-18	2,822	189,302
Apr-18	2,589	110,816
Mar-18	2,930	187,696
Feb-18	2,784	126,894
Jan-18	2,800	69,488
Dec-17	2,623	107,879
Nov-17	3,006	83,551
Oct-17	2,813	69,141
Sep-17	2,531	66,016
Aug-17	2,141	87,986

French pensions group targeted in month's largest deal

Despite the significant decline by value in August, which follows a number of impressive months for M&A in Western Europe, there were still eight deals which broke the EUR 1,000 million-barrier during the four weeks under review. Together, these accounted for 37 per cent of total value.

The largest of these involved La Poste buying a 42 per cent stake in French bespoke pensions savings products provider CNP Assurances in a deal worth EUR 5,786 million. This deal is part of the French Government's plans to diversify La Poste as the company explores expansion into other markets. The buyer issued stock as payment for the acquisition of the CNP stake.

The Coca-Cola Company agreed to acquire UK-based coffee shop chain Costa for EUR 4,350 million in the month's second largest transaction, increasing the soft drinks maker's presence in the global hot beverage market. This was followed by another UK-based target as closed-end investment fund John Laing Infrastructure Fund was sold to Dalmore Capital- and Equitix Investment Management-owned Jura Acquisition for EUR 1,588 million.

Other targets in August included Netherlands-headquartered rubber manufacturer Arlanxeo Holding, UK car insurance provider esure Group, French health insurance player AXA and Belgium financial advisory services and stock brokerage firm Merit Capital.

Six UK-based targets featured in the month's top 20 deals by value. The Netherlands was targeted in three deals, while France, Germany and Italy featured in two deals each.

UK top by value, Germany leads by volume

Unsurprisingly, given the number of deals that made it into the top 20 in August, the UK was the most valuable Western European country, with investment of EUR 15,815 million. While this was some way ahead of its nearest competitor (France with EUR 9,179 million), it still represents a significant decline month-on-month, from EUR 70,787 million in July, when two competitive bids for UK broadcaster Sky were made by Twenty-First Century Fox and Comcast.

Germany placed third by value with EUR 6,885 million, followed by the Netherlands (EUR 5,442 million), Italy (EUR 3,000 million), Spain (EUR 2,183 million) and Belgium (EUR 1,259 million). Other countries, such as Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland and Ireland also recorded significant investments, each worth more than EUR 500 million but less than the EUR 1,000 million barrier.

In terms of volume, Germany led the way, having featured in 455 deals during the four weeks under review. The UK was a close second, with 433 deals, while France was third with 192 deals. Each of these were in line with the Western European M&A trend and represented a month-on-month decline.

Insurance companies record positive increase and were the highest valued sector in August

On a positive note for Western European M&A, companies operating in the insurance sector featured in deals worth EUR 8,810 million, attributable to two deals each worth more than EUR 1,000 million during August. This represents a significant increase from EUR 1,302 million in July and is also the largest recorded since December 2014, when deals worth a combined EUR 8,832 million were announced.

Hotels and restaurant and chemicals, rubber and plastics also increased by value over the four weeks to EUR 5,000 million and EUR 3,603 million, respectively.

Top 20 deals by value

	Deal value (mil EUR)	Deal type	Target	Target country	Acquiror	Acquiror country	Deal status
1.	5,786	Acquisition increased from 18% to 60%	CNP Assurances SA	FR	La Poste SA	FR	Pending
2.	4,350	Acquisition 100%	Costa Ltd	GB	The Coca-Cola Company,	US	Pending
3.	1,588	Acquisition 100%	John Laing Infrastructure Fund Ltd	GB	Jura Acquisition Ltd	GB	Announced
4.	1,500	Acquisition increased from 50% to 100%	Arlanxeo Holding BV	NL	Aramco Overseas Holdings Cooperatief UA	NL	Announced
5.	1,351	IBO 100%	esure Group plc	GB	Blue (BC) Bidco Ltd	GB	Pending
6.	1,281	Capital Increase 2%	AXA SA	FR	Employees		Announced
7.	1,115	Acquisition 100%	Merit Capital NV	BE	Duet Asset Management Ltd	GB	Completed
8.	1,086	IBO increased from 29% to 100%	VTG AG	DE	Warwick Holding GmbH	DE	Pending
9.	875	Minority stake increased from 1% to 6%	Akzo Nobel NV	NL	UBS Group AG	CH	Completed
10.	850	Minority stake 40%	Nuova Argo Finanziaria SpA	IT	Ardian France SA	FR	Pending
11.	730	IBO 100%	Technopolis Oyj	FI	Kildare Nordic Acquisitions Sarl		Announced
12.	703	Acquisition 100%	Ziylo Ltd	GB	Novo Nordisk A/S	DK	Completed
13.	700	Minority stake 45%	Maxamcorp Holding SL	ES	Rhone Capital LLC	US	Announced
14.	675	Acquisition increased from 67% to 100%	Arsenal Holdings plc	GB	KSE UK Inc.	US	Unconditional
15.	660	Acquisition 100%	Holdingselskabet af 10. januar 2013 II A/S	DK	DP World Ltd	AE	Announced
16.	633	Acquisition increased from 44% to 57%	DiaSorin SpA	IT	Finde Ss	IT	Completed
17.	629	Acquisition 100%	Adapt Pharma Ltd	IE	Emergent BioSolutions Inc.	US	Announced
18.	628	Acquisition 100%	Mendix Holding BV	NL	Siemens International Holding BV	NL	Pending
19.	566	Minority stake 8%	Nielsen Holdings plc	GB	Elliott Associates LP; Elliott International LP; Elliott International Capital Advisors Inc.	US	Completed
20.	506	Minority stake increased from 10% to 15%	MTU Aero Engines AG	DE	The Capital Group Companies Inc.	US	Completed

Top 20 private equity deals by value

	Deal value (mil EUR)	Deal type	Target	Target country	Fund Manager/General Partner	Deal status
1.	1,351	IBO 100%	esure Group plc	GB	Bain Capital Private Equity (Europe) LLP	Pending
2.	1,086	IBO increased from 29% to 100%	VTG AG	DE	Morgan Stanley Infrastructure Inc.	Pending
3.	850	Minority stake 40%	Nuova Argo Finanziaria SpA	IT	Ardian France SA	Pending
4.	730	IBO 100%	Technopolis Oyj	FI	Kildare Partners UK LLP	Announced
5.	700	Minority stake 45%	Maxamcorp Holding SL	ES	Rhone Capital LLC	Announced
6.	160	Minority stake	Deezer SA	FR	LBO France Gestion SAS; Access Industries Inc.; Kingdom Holdings Company	Completed
7.	132	Minority stake	Orchard Therapeutics Ltd	GB	Temasek Capital (Pte) Ltd; Deerfield Management Company LP; Baillie Gifford & Co Ltd; RA Capital Management LLC; Perceptive Advisors LLC; Sphera Funds Management Ltd; Driehaus Capital Management LLC; Foresite Capital Management LLC; Healthcare Royalty Partners; Cormorant Asset Management LLC; EHealth Ventures Israel Ltd; ArrowMark Colorado Holdings LLC; VR Management LLC; RTW Investments LP; Ghost Tree Capital LLC; Agent Capital LLC	Completed
8.	90	MBO 100%	Neilson Active Holidays Ltd	GB	Lloyds Development Capital (Holdings) Ltd	Completed
9.	88	Minority stake	Deposit Solutions GmbH	DE	Vitruvian Partners LLP; e.ventures; Kinnevik AB	Completed
10.	82	Acquisition 100%	Amazone luxury resort in Porto Heli	GR	Dolphin Capital Partners SA	Completed
11.	72	Minority stake	Artios Pharma Ltd	GB	Life Sciences Partners BV; IP Group plc; AbbVie Biotech Ventures Inc.; Novartis Venture Fund; Aris Bioscience plc; SV Health Investors LLC; Andera Partners SA	Completed
12.	70	Minority stake 35%	Lumson SpA	IT	FSI SGR SpA	Announced
13.	67	Minority stake	Bulb Energy Ltd	GB	Magnetar Capital LLC; DST Global Advisors Ltd	Completed
14.	49	Minority stake	Zopa Ltd	GB		Announced
15.	47	Minority stake	ReViral Ltd	GB	Novo A/S; OrbiMed Advisors LLC; New Leaf Venture Partners LLC; Perceptive Advisors LLC; Brace Pharma Capital; Andera Partners SA	Completed
16.	41	IBO 100%	Abzena plc	GB	Welsh Carson Anderson & Stowe	Pending
17.	40	Minority stake	Arq Ltd	GB		Completed
18.	39	Minority stake 20%	MNT Investment BV	NL	Development Partners International LLP	Completed
19.	35	Minority stake	Planday A/S	DK	Creandum Advisor AB; IDInvest Partners; SEB Private Equity	Completed
20.	35	Minority stake	First Group	GI	Mangrove Capital Partners SA; Target Global	Announced

PE and VC investment sticks to M&A trend and declines on both fronts

The volume and value of private equity and venture capital (PE and VC) investment in Western European targets declined to the lowest recorded result of the last 12-months in August, as EUR 6,294 million was invested across 172 deals. This represents a 48 per cent decline from the 333 deals recorded in July and a 77 per cent decrease from EUR 27,130 million month-on-month.

While August is typically a quieter month for deals, the decline is also evident year-on-year; in August 2017, there were 191 announced deals worth EUR 13,199 million.

Two deals worth more than EUR 1,000 million accounted for 39 per cent of total value for August. This included Bain Capital Private Equity's Blue Bidco buying UK car insurance provider esure Group for EUR 1,351 million, followed by Morgan Stanley Infrastructure's Warwick Holding picking up the remaining stake it does not own in German rail freight transportation services provider VTG for EUR 1,086 million.

Italian motorway construction group Nuova Argo Finanziaria, Finland business support service provider Technopolis and Spain's explosives disposal services holding company Maxamcorp Holding, were among others also targeted.

PE and VC firms such as Ardian France, Kildare Partners, Rhone Capital, Lloyds Development Capital and Vitruvian Partners featured in the top 20 PE and VC deals by value.

Private equity deals by volume and value

Announced date	No of deals	Total deal value (mil EUR)
Aug-18	172	6,294
Jul-18	333	27,130
Jun-18	333	21,159
May-18	350	24,707
Apr-18	290	12,370
Mar-18	304	17,634
Feb-18	288	22,819
Jan-18	338	9,326
Dec-17	304	20,910
Nov-17	316	13,526
Oct-17	350	12,387
Sep-17	345	11,164
Aug-17	191	13,199

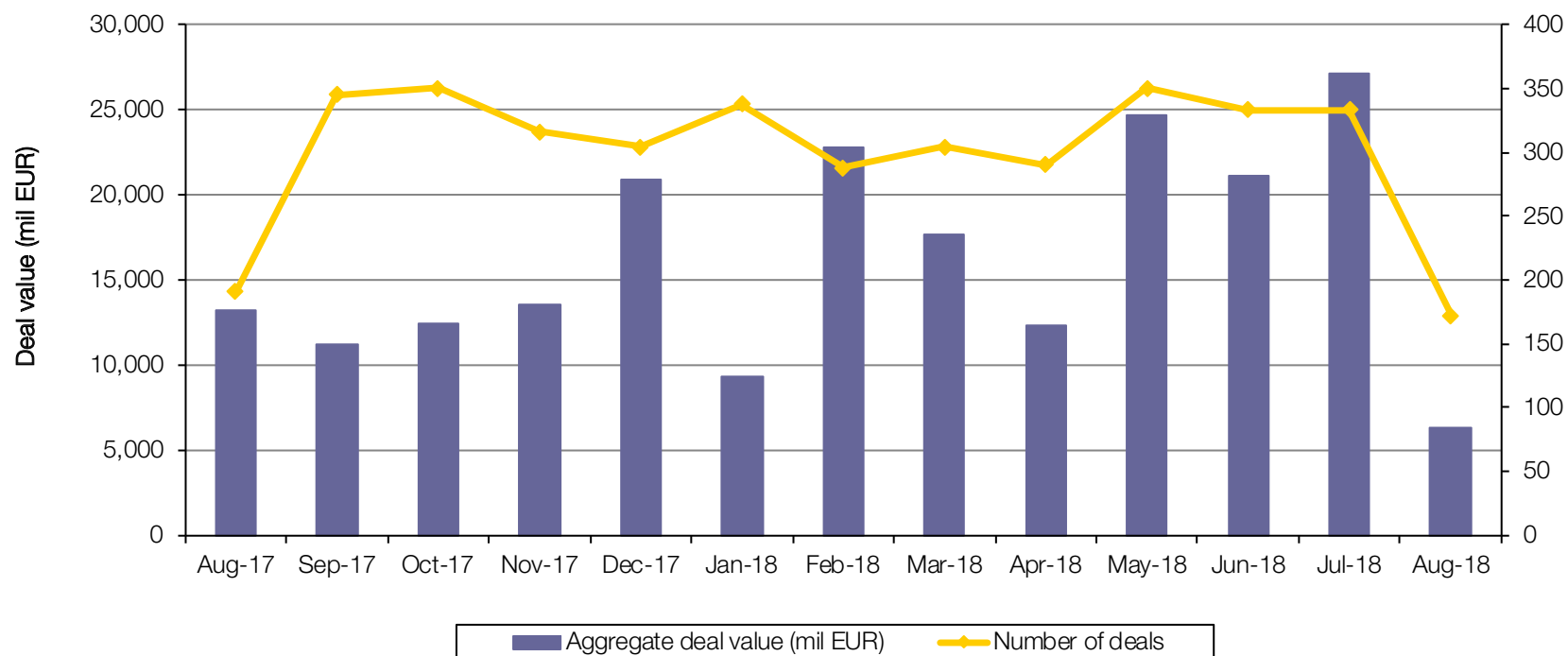
Private equity deals as a percentage of total volume

Announced date	Private equity volume	Total volume	Percentage
Aug-18	172	1,819	9
Jul-18	333	2,484	13
Aug-17	191	1,974	10

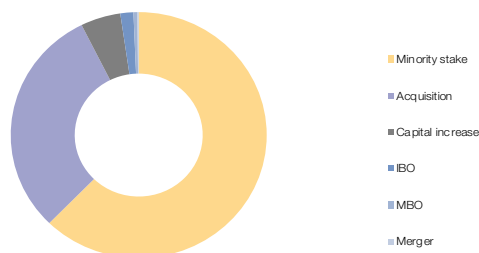
Private equity deals as a percentage of total value

Announced date	Private equity value (mil EUR)	Total value (mil EUR)	Percentage
Aug-18	6,294	48,617	13
Jul-18	27,130	150,184	18
Aug-17	13,199	89,277	15

Private equity deals by volume and value



Deal types by volume in August



Deal types by value in August



Deal types by volume

Deal type	Aug-17	Jul-18	Aug-18
Minority stake	1,054	1,335	1,134
Acquisition	713	884	552
Capital increase	136	144	92
IBO	44	101	30
MBO	21	16	9
Merger	4	4	3

Deal types by value

Deal type	Aug-17 (mil EUR)	Jul-18 (mil EUR)	Aug-18 (mil EUR)
Acquisition	52,664	95,572	25,052
Minority stake	22,686	28,870	16,946
IBO	3,526	2,964	3,277
Capital increase	10,361	22,760	3,241
MBO	34	18	113

Target sector by volume

Target sector	Aug-17	Jul-18	Aug-18
Other services	746	978	672
Machinery, equipment, furniture, recycling	244	402	263
Wholesale & retail trade	165	195	174
Chemicals, rubber, plastics	116	122	97
Metals & metal products	94	88	82
Publishing, printing	98	106	70
Construction	73	85	63
Post and telecommunications	45	52	54
Transport	49	88	50
Primary sector	45	37	46
Food, beverages, tobacco	49	71	46
Banks	57	39	37
Hotels & restaurants	32	32	35
Gas, water, electricity	48	50	32
Insurance companies	24	40	26
Textiles, wearing apparel, leather	29	28	24
Wood, cork, paper	20	38	22
Education, health	34	36	20
Public administration and defence	1	3	0

Target sector by value

Target sector	Aug-17 (mil EUR)	Jul-18 (mil EUR)	Aug-18 (mil EUR)
Other services	45,291	82,429	15,759
Insurance companies	2,363	1,302	8,810
Hotels & restaurants	691	2,764	5,000
Chemicals, rubber, plastics	2,248	3,398	4,603
Machinery, equipment, furniture, recycling	6,691	10,725	3,642
Wholesale & retail trade	2,506	3,917	2,119
Banks	2,159	11,219	1,588
Construction	12,452	3,677	1,462
Transport	5,102	4,983	993
Education, health	393	1,225	928
Food, beverages, tobacco	591	3,229	672
Metals & metal products	2,460	2,021	639
Primary sector	10,036	3,025	637
Post and telecommunications	1,976	4,733	631
Gas, water, electricity	2,798	8,245	347
Publishing, printing	934	4,497	258
Textiles, wearing apparel, leather	342	806	240
Wood, cork, paper	101	787	149
Public administration and defence	0	38	0

Target country by volume

Target country	Aug-17	Jul-18	Aug-18
Germany	402	504	455
UK	448	534	433
France	184	275	192
Spain	209	280	175
Netherlands	167	209	171
Italy	88	170	93
Switzerland	86	101	78
Sweden	104	144	75
Finland	57	22	28
Belgium	59	61	22
Norway	30	31	22
Turkey	40	28	21
Denmark	33	27	17
Luxembourg	5	24	11
Ireland	17	34	9
Austria	16	27	8
Portugal	19	13	7
Malta	4	2	4
Gibraltar	2	0	1
Cyprus	4	6	1
Greece	4	11	1

Target country by value

Target country	Aug-17 (mil EUR)	Jul-18 (mil EUR)	Aug-18 (mil EUR)
UK	27,435	70,787	15,815
France	12,088	11,339	9,179
Germany	6,423	12,639	6,885
Netherlands	8,793	3,321	5,442
Italy	2,906	8,856	3,000
Spain	16,940	19,897	2,183
Belgium	215	3,529	1,259
Denmark	7,590	1,236	881
Sweden	970	4,146	847
Switzerland	1,226	2,896	818
Finland	493	104	761
Ireland	397	3,653	723
Turkey	117	156	288
Luxembourg	18	4,286	181
Norway	606	4,379	130
Greece	29	180	82
Malta	178	137	53
Austria	34	824	44
Gibraltar	2	0	35
Portugal	455	884	9
Cyprus	2,799	279	2

Notes to editors

Activity is based on the activity of the target company

Deal status is announced within the time period

The sector breakdown uses targets' activities as defined to be 'Major Sectors' by Zephyr

The Western Europe region covers target companies in Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom

Data refers to target companies based in Western Europe except where specified as expanded EU of 27 countries on page 3

The date range is 01/08/2018 - 31/08/2018 inclusive