**TEXT:**
The UK’s Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is opening a consultation on proposals to give the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) the power to grant exemptions from the European Regulation which restricts the supply of second-hand articles (including rolling stock) containing asbestos. ORR is aiming to consult, at the same time, on a draft exemption for the rail sector. Would such exemptions require the approval of the European Commission? What steps would be involved in this process?