



## State Aid Weekly e-News

Nr. 12/08, 04.04.2008

28.03.2008 - 03.04.2008

### Highlights

#### **State aid: Commission launches in-depth investigation into UK restructuring aid package for Northern Rock**

The European Commission has launched an in-depth investigation under the EC Treaty's rules on state aid into the UK authorities' package of measures to support the restructuring of Northern Rock, the UK mortgage bank. The Commission received the notification of these measures on 17th March 2008. The opening of an in-depth investigation gives interested parties the possibility to comment on the proposed measures but it does not prejudice the outcome.

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[Frequently asked questions](#)

#### **Community guidelines on State aid for environmental protection - now published in the Official Journal and applicable as from 2 April 2008**

OJ C 82 of 01.04.2008, p. 1 [bg](#) [es](#) [cs](#) [da](#) [de](#) [et](#) [el](#) [en](#) [fr](#) [it](#) [lv](#) [lt](#) [hu](#) [mt](#) [nl](#) [pl](#) [pt](#) [ro](#) [sk](#) [sl](#) [fi](#) [sv](#)

#### **Guidelines for the examination of State aid to fisheries and aquaculture - now published in the Official Journal and applicable as from 1 April 2008**

OJ C 84 of 03.04.2008, p. 10 [bg](#) [es](#) [cs](#) [da](#) [de](#) [et](#) [el](#) [en](#) [fr](#) [it](#) [lv](#) [lt](#) [hu](#) [mt](#) [nl](#) [pl](#) [pt](#) [ro](#) [sk](#) [sl](#) [fi](#) [sv](#)

#### **Invitation to tender: Appel d'offres relatif à la réalisation d'une étude sur la garantie illimitée de la République française à La Poste (COMP/2008/F3/003)**

Deadline for submitting tenders: 21.04.2008

[For further information, click here](#)

#### **European Commission authorises Polish State Aid for coal industry**

The Commission has decided not to raise any objections to the PLN 1.3 billion (approximately € 350 million) which Poland proposes to grant to its coal industry for the years 2008 to 2010. The state aid aims to cover the restructuring costs of the coal mines resulting from administrative, legal or tax provisions and the labour costs associated with the financing of staff reductions.

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#### **Aides d'État: la Commission ordonne à la France de récupérer une aide illégale auprès d'Arbel Fauvet Rail**

La Commission européenne a décidé, en vertu des règles du traité CE relatives aux aides d'État, que les autorités françaises devaient récupérer une aide d'État illégale reçue par Arbel Fauvet Rail, constructeur de matériel ferroviaire roulant. Cette aide a pris la forme d'une bonification d'intérêt pour deux prêts, d'une valeur totale de 2 millions d'euros, accordés par les autorités locales françaises. L'enquête menée par la Commission fait apparaître que ces prêts étaient assortis d'un taux d'intérêt inférieur à celui que la société aurait pu obtenir sur le marché. Cette différence d'intérêt a conféré à Arbel Fauvet Rail un avantage indu par rapport à ses concurrents et constitue une aide incompatible. Il incombe aux autorités françaises de déterminer le montant exact de l'aide à récupérer.

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## State aid: Commission endorses proposed €83 million aid to Progroup for large investment project in Germany

The European Commission has authorised, under EC Treaty state aid rules, €83 million of aid, which the German authorities intend to grant to Propapier PM 2 belonging to the German Progroup for the construction of a paper mill in Eisenhüttenstadt, in the Brandenburg-Nordost region. The Commission's assessment found the measure to be compatible with the requirements of the Regional Aid Guidelines 2007-2013 (see *IP/05/1653*). The investment project of €640 million by Progroup will significantly contribute to the diversification of Eisenhüttenstadt's economy, which is currently focused on the metal industry, thus benefiting the further development of the region.

[Read more](#)

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## I. Draft legislation and public consultations

Closed public consultations: [DG Competition](#)  
[DG Agriculture](#)  
DG [Transport](#) and [Energy](#)  
[DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries](#)

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## II. New legislation

### Guidelines for the examination of State aid to fisheries and aquaculture

OJ C 84 of 03.04.2008, p. 10 [bg](#) [es](#) [cs](#) [da](#) [de](#) [et](#) [el](#) [en](#) [fr](#) [it](#) [lv](#) [lt](#) [hu](#) [mt](#) [nl](#) [pl](#) [pt](#) [ro](#) [sk](#) [sl](#) [fi](#) [sv](#)

### Community guidelines on State aid for environmental protection

OJ C 82 of 01.04.2008, p. 1 [bg](#) [es](#) [cs](#) [da](#) [de](#) [et](#) [el](#) [en](#) [fr](#) [it](#) [lv](#) [lt](#) [hu](#) [mt](#) [nl](#) [pl](#) [pt](#) [ro](#) [sk](#) [sl](#) [fi](#) [sv](#)

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## III. Decisions to open formal investigation

### 1. Decisions taken by the Commission

Country	Title	Case number	Objective	Decision date
<b>DG Competition cases</b>				
United Kingdom	Restructuring aid to Northern Rock <a href="#">Press release</a> <a href="#">Memo</a>	<a href="#">C 14/2008</a> (ex NN 1/2008)		02.04.2008
United Kingdom	Aid to Channel 4 linked to digital switchover <a href="#">Press release</a>	<a href="#">C 13/2008</a> (ex N 589/2007)	Services of general economic interest	02.04.2008

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## 2. Decisions pending OJ publication

[Click here to see the full list](#)

## 3. Decisions published in the OJ from 03.03.2007 to 03.04.2008 – Formal comments period running

\* Where the last day of the public comments period falls on a public holiday in a Member State, the deadline for comments of parties residing in that Member State ends on the following working day.

Country	Title/Links to documents	Case number	Objective	Decision date
<b>DG Competition cases</b>				
Finland	State aid to Ålands Industrihus Ab OJ C 76 of 27.03.2008, p. 15 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a> <a href="#">Press release</a> <b>Deadline for comments*:</b> 28.04.2008	<a href="#">C 6/2008</a> (ex NN 69/2007)		30.01.2008
Germany	IKB OJ C 76 of 27.03.2008, p. 5 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a> <a href="#">Press Release</a> <a href="#">Memo</a> <b>Deadline for comments*:</b> 28.04.2008	<a href="#">C 10/2008</a> (ex 7/2008)		27.02.2008
Germany	Sachsen LB OJ C 71 of 18.03.2008, p. 14 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a> <a href="#">Press Release</a> <a href="#">Memo</a> <b>Deadline for comments*:</b> 18.04.2008	<a href="#">C 9/2008</a> (ex 8/2008)		27.02.2008
Netherlands	Investment in Ahoy <sup>1</sup> by the Municipality of Rotterdam OJ C 68 of 13.03.2008, p. 14 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a> <a href="#">Press release</a> <b>Deadline for comments*:</b> 14.04.2008	<a href="#">C 4/2008</a> (ex N 97/2007)	Culture aid	30.01.2008
<b>DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries cases</b>				
France	Industries de transformation et de commercialisation du secteur de la pêche et de l'aquaculture OJ C 61 of 06.03.2008, p. 8 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a> <b>Deadline for comments*:</b> 07.04.2008	<a href="#">C 1/2008</a> (ex N 283/2007)	Services of general economic interest	15.01.2008

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## IV. Final Commission decisions

### 1. Decisions taken by the Commission

#### 1.1. No objection decisions

Country	Title	Case number	Objective	Decision date
<b>DG Competition cases</b>				
Germany	Technology Networks. R&D&I-scheme. Germany (Mecklenburg-Vorp.)	<a href="#">N 615/2007</a>	Innovation aid	01.04.2008
Germany	LIP - DE - Propapier PM 2 KG <a href="#">Press release</a>	<a href="#">N 582/2007</a>	Regional development aid	02.04.2008
Hungary	Method of Rural Credit Guarantee Foundation (AVHGA) for calculating the aid element in guarantees	<a href="#">N 201b/2007</a>	Regional development aid	02.04.2008
Netherlands	Omnibus Decentraal - R&D&I Scheme	<a href="#">N 726a/2007</a>	R&D aid	03.04.2008
Slovakia	Restructuring aid to Compel Rail	<a href="#">N 472/2007</a>	No aid	02.04.2008
Spain	Aid to to creation and production of films in Spain	<a href="#">N 562/2007</a>	Culture aid	02.04.2008
Spain	Reward scheme for popular feature films shown in Valencia	<a href="#">N 379/2007</a>		02.04.2008
Spain	The support for R&D&I	<a href="#">N 233/2007</a>	R&D aid	01.04.2008
<b>DG Agriculture cases</b>				
Hungary	Aid for costs of removal and destruction of fallen stock	<a href="#">N 558/2007</a>		01.04.2008
Italy	Reduction of excise tax on energy products and electricity for beekeepers	<a href="#">NN 61/2007</a>		02.04.2008
Italy	Compensation for damage done to crops by rain between December 8th and 10th 2006 (Sardegna)	<a href="#">N 329/2007</a>		01.04.2008
<b>DG Transport and Energy cases</b>				
Bulgaria	Coal sector (8 companies) <a href="#">Press release</a>	<a href="#">N 261/2007</a>	No aid	02.04.2008
Netherlands	Réduction du CO2	<a href="#">N 687/2007</a>		31.03.2008
Poland	Expansion of the Regional Airport: Port Lotniczy Łódź Sp. z o.o. <a href="#">Press release</a>	<a href="#">N 638/2007</a>	Regional development aid	02.04.2008

Poland	Secteur du charbon 2008-2015 <a href="#">Press release</a>	<a href="#">N 575/2007</a>		02.04.2008
Poland	Restructuration of Hartwig Warszawa <a href="#">Press release</a>	<a href="#">N 506/2007</a>		02.04.2008
Slovakia	Reduction of excise duty on mineral oils <a href="#">Press release</a>	<a href="#">NN 46b/2006</a>	Environmental aid	02.04.2008
<b>DG Maritime Affaires and Fisheries cases</b>				
Spain	Ayuda Cantrabria concurrencia competitiva cofradías pescadores	<a href="#">N 657/2007</a>		01.04.2008

## 1.2. Decisions to close formal investigation

Country	Title	Case number	Objective	Decision date
<b>DG Competition cases</b>				
France	Alleged aid to Arbel Fauvet Rail SA <i>Negative decision with recovery</i> <a href="#">Press release</a>	<a href="#">C 38/2007</a> (ex NN 45/07)		02.04.2008
Romania	Privatisation of Tractorul <i>Positive decision</i>	<a href="#">C 41/2007</a> (ex NN 49/07)		02.04.2008

## 2. Public versions of decisions made available

### 2.1. No objection decisions

Country	Title	Case number	Objective	Decision date
<b>DG Competition cases</b>				
Finland	R&D Aid Scheme	<a href="#">N 356/2007</a>	R&D aid	31.01.2008
Germany	Establishment of Fraunhofer Center for Silicone Photovoltaics	<a href="#">N 365/2007</a>	No aid	30.01.2008
Netherlands	GATE. Individual R&D&I aid. The Netherlands	<a href="#">N 474/2007</a>	R&D aid	31.01.2008
United Kingdom	Northern Ireland R&D Challenge Fund	<a href="#">N 761/2007</a>	R&D aid	21.02.2008

## 2.2. Decisions to close formal investigation

Country	Title	Case number	Objective	Decision date
<b>DG Competition cases</b>				
Romania	Privatisation of Automobile Craiova <i>Negative decision with recovery</i>	<a href="#">C 47/2007</a> (ex NN 59/07)		27.02.2008

## 3. Decisions published in the OJ

### 3.1. No objection decisions

\* Decisions not to raise objections are frequently grouped together in one single document for publication in the Official Journal. Since the link can only be made to the top of the first page of the document, you may have to scroll down in the document to find a particular case.

Country	Title/ Links to documents*	Case number	Objective	Decision date
<b>DG Competition cases</b>				
Germany	Innovation aid to Nordseewerke OJ C 80 of 01.04.2008, p. 2 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>	<a href="#">N 342/2007</a>	Innovation aid	30.01.2008
Italy	Legge Provinciale del 13 dicembre 2006, n. 14 «Ricerca e innovazione» OJ C 80 of 01.04.2008, p. 2 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>	<a href="#">N 466/2007</a>	R&D aid	15.02.2008
Italy	Aiuto per la tutela dell'ambiente a favore dell'Azienda Solvay Chimica Bussi di Bussi sul Tirino (PE) OJ C 80 of 01.04.2008, p. 1 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>	<a href="#">N 528/2006</a>	Environmental aid	31.08.2007
Poland	Ad hoc aid to Humax Poland Sp. z.o.o OJ C 80 of 01.04.2008, p. 4 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>	<a href="#">N 576/2007</a>	Regional development aid	31.01.2008
Spain	The reduction of tax from intangible assets OJ C 80 of 01.04.2008, p. 3 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>	<a href="#">N 480/2007</a>	R&D aid	13.02.2008
United Kingdom	Yorkshire and Humber Research and Development scheme for large companies OJ C 80 of 01.04.2008, p. 5 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>	<a href="#">N 585/2007</a>	R&D aid	05.03.2008
<b>DG Transport and Energy cases</b>				

United Kingdom	Aid of a Social Character for Air Services in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland OJ C 80 of 01.04.2008, p. 5 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>	<a href="#">N 27/2008</a>	Regional development aid	14.02.2008
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### 3.2. Decisions to close formal investigation

Country	Title/ Links to documents	Case number	Objective	Decision date
<b>DG Competition cases</b>				
Belgium	Régime fiscal des centres de coordination OJ L 90 of 02.04.2008, p. 7 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a> <i>Negative decision without recovery</i> <a href="#">Press release</a>	<a href="#">C 15/2002</a>		13.11.2007
France	Garantie Coface dans le cadre de la construction par AREVA NP (ex Framatome ANP) d'une centrale nucléaire pour Teollisuuden Voyma Oy OJ L 89 of 01.04.2008, p. 15 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a> <i>No aid decision</i>	<a href="#">C 45/2006</a> (ex NN 62a/2006)		25.09.2007
Poland	Restructuring aid for Techmatrans OJ L 86 of 28.03.2008, p. 28 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a> <i>Positive decision</i>	<a href="#">C 6/2007</a> (ex N 558/2006)	Restructuring aid	28.11.2007

## V. Other types of decisions

-None-

## VI. Block exemptions

### Information sheets published in the OJ

\* Block exemption information sheets are frequently grouped together in one single document for publication in the Official Journal. Since the link can only be made to the top of the first page of the document, you may have to scroll down in the document to find a particular case.

Country	Title/Links to documents*	Case number	Objective
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Austria	Bürgschaftsübernahme für Investitionskredite, die an KMU, welche Mitglieder der Wirtschaftskammer OÖ sind, gewährt werden  OJ C 78 of 29.03.2008, p. 5 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>	<a href="#">XS 43/2008</a>	SME aid
Austria	Bürgschaftsübernahme für Investitionen  OJ C 78 of 29.03.2008, p. 3 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>	<a href="#">XS 41/2008</a>	SME aid
Germany	Richtlinie „Förderung der Forschung und Entwicklung in betrieblichen Innovationsprojekten in kleinen und mittleren Unternehmen“  OJ C 78 of 29.03.2008, p. 6 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>	<a href="#">XS 35/2008</a>	R&D aid
Italy	L.R. 34/04 – Asse 1: misura Ri.3 Agevolazioni per le piccole e medie imprese a sostegno di progetti ed investimenti per l’innovazione e l’ecoinnovazione, la sicurezza nei luoghi di lavoro, l’adozione delle tecnologie dell’informazione e della comunicazione  OJ C 78 of 29.03.2008, p. 7 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>	<a href="#">XS 38/2008</a>	SME aid
Italy	Misura 1.3.a) POR "Competitività regionale e occupazione" 2007-2013 "Sostegno allo sviluppo precompetitivo delle PMI industriali"  OJ C 78 of 29.03.2008, p. 6 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>	<a href="#">XS 36/2008</a>	R&D aid
Poland	Zakład Usługowo-Produkcyjny Sp. z o.o.  OJ C 78 of 29.03.2008, p. 4 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>	<a href="#">XS 42/2008</a>	SME aid
Poland	Fabryka Obrabiarek Precyzyjnych AVIA S. A.  OJ C 78 of 29.03.2008, p. 3 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>	<a href="#">XS 40/2008</a>	SME aid
Poland	Glass Product Sp. z o.o.  OJ C 78 of 29.03.2008, p. 7 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>	<a href="#">XS 39/2008</a>	SME aid
Poland	Szczeciński Program Regionalnej Pomocy Inwestycyjnej w Podatku od Nieruchomości  OJ C 78 of 29.03.2008, p. 10 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>	<a href="#">XR 179/2007</a>	Regional aid

Poland	Program pomocy regionalnej na wspieranie nowych inwestycji lub tworzenie nowych miejsc pracy związanych z nową inwestycją, w formie zwolnienia z podatku od nieruchomości (Głogów)	<a href="#">XR 178/2007</a>	Regional aid
	OJ C 78 of 29.03.2008, p. 9 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>		
Poland	Program pomocy regionalnej na wspieranie nowych inwestycji	<a href="#">XR 177/2007</a>	Regional aid
	OJ C 78 of 29.03.2008, p. 9 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>		

## VII. European Court of Justice

\* In order to consult the available languages of documents uploaded in the Curia website, please click on the earth symbol on the left side toolbar.

### 1. Court of First Instance

Court case	Title	Country	Type of act	Date	Related case
<a href="#">T-53/08</a> OJ C 79 of 29.03. 2008, p. 33 <a href="#">bg</a> <a href="#">es</a> <a href="#">cs</a> <a href="#">da</a> <a href="#">de</a> <a href="#">et</a> <a href="#">el</a> <a href="#">en</a> <a href="#">fr</a> <a href="#">it</a> <a href="#">lv</a> <a href="#">lt</a> <a href="#">hu</a> <a href="#">mt</a> <a href="#">nl</a> <a href="#">pl</a> <a href="#">pt</a> <a href="#">ro</a> <a href="#">sk</a> <a href="#">sl</a> <a href="#">fi</a> <a href="#">sv</a>	Italy v Commission	Italy	Action	31.10.2008	<a href="#">C 36a/2006</a> (ex NN 38/2006)

### 2. Court of Justice

Court case	Title	Country	Type of act	Date	Related case
<a href="#">C-521/06 P</a>	Appeal by Athinaïki Techniki AE against CFI order in case T-94/05 Athinaïki Techniki v Commission	Greece	Opinion	03.04.2008	<a href="#">T-94/05</a> Rejection of complaint

## VIII. European Economic Area

Based on the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA), the EFTA States participating in the EEA have entrusted the EFTA Surveillance Authority and the EFTA Court with similar decision making powers to that of the Commission and the European Court of Justice, respectively, in the field of state aid for the EFTA States.

### 1. Decisions of the EFTA Surveillance Authority

Country	Title/Links to documents	Case number	Objective	Decision date
<b>Public versions of decisions made available</b>				
Norway	EFTA Surveillance Authority Decision not to raise objections to the notified support in favour of Celsa Ameringsstål to reduce mercury emissions <a href="#">602/07/COL</a>	62777	Environmental aid	28.11.2007
Norway	EFTA Surveillance Authority Decision on alleged state aid with regard to the Norwegian reindeer slaughter industry <a href="#">166/08/COL</a>	63148		12.03.2008

## **2. EFTA Court**

**-none-**

## **3. State Aid New Legislation**

**-none-**

## **4. Other EEA points of interest**

**-none-**

# **IX. Additional points of interest**

## **Events**

### **6th Experts' Forum on new developments in European State aid law**

Brussels, 11 - 12 June

[For further information, please click here](#)

### **Advanced State Aid Seminar and Maastricht Forum on State Aid**

The Advanced Seminar intends to bring together senior national and Community officials to address issues such as: policy and legal developments in the field of state aid, recent case law concerning the concept of state aid and the procedures for notification and recovery of state aid, economic assessment of state aid, the concept of market failure and the 'balancing test'. Emphasis will be placed on the presentation of concrete cases, rigorous analysis and informal exchange of information and experience. The purpose of the Maastricht Forum on State Aid, which this year will focus on de minimis aid, is to provide an opportunity to participants to discuss issues of common concern and identify potential solutions. The deliberations of the Forum will be published in proceedings that will be widely distributed.

Maastricht, 26 - 27 June 2008

[For further information, click here](#)

### **State Aid Master Class and Case Analysis**

The Master Class is intended for public officials who already have a good understanding of state aid

issues but want to improve their knowledge and skills on how to determine whether a public measure contains state aid and how to design state aid schemes that are compatible with EU rules. The Master Class is based on analysis of recent important Commission decisions and Court rulings.

Maastricht, 10 – 11 July 2008

[For further information, click here](#)

## **Studies and reports**

### **March 2008: Economic sentiment recovers slightly in the EU, while declining further in the Euro area**

In March, the Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI) rose by 1.7 points in the EU and decreased by 0.6 points in the euro area, to 102.0 and 99.6 respectively. Following a continuous decline since mid-2007, the indicator rebounded somewhat in the EU on the back of a sharp improvement in services confidence in the UK. Meanwhile, it weakened further in the euro area and now stands just below its long-term average.

[Read more](#)

### **March 2008: Business Climate Indicator for the euro area picks up slightly in March**

After having decreased for three months in a row, the Business Climate Indicator (BCI) for the euro area rebounded in March. The relatively high level of the indicator points to sustained industrial production growth in the first quarter of this year, in line with the increase recorded in January. The rise in the BCI is due to industry managers' more optimistic appraisal of the production trend in recent months and of their total order books. By contrast, their production expectations continued to decline, while their views of export order books and stocks of finished products remained unchanged.

[Read more](#)

### **February 2008: Euro area unemployment stable at 7.1% - EU27 down to 6.7%**

The euro area (EA15) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate stood at 7.1% in February 2008, unchanged compared with January. It was 7.6% in February 2007. The EU27 unemployment rate was 6.7% in February 2008, compared with 6.8% in January. It was 7.4% in February 2007. Eurostat estimates that 15.970 million men and women in the EU27, of which 10.909 million in the euro area, were unemployed in February 2008. Compared with January 2008, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 130 000 and 59 000 respectively. Compared with February 2007, unemployment was down by 1.5 million in the EU27 and by 0.7 million in the euro area.

[Read more](#)

### **March 2008: Euro area inflation estimated at 3.5%**

Euro area annual inflation is expected to be 3.5% in March 2008 according to a flash estimate issued by Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities. It was 3.3% in February.

[Read more](#)

## **Invitations to tender**

### **Invitation to tender: Appel d'offres relatif à la réalisation d'une étude sur la garantie illimitée de la République française à La Poste (COMP/2008/F3/003)**

Deadline for submitting tenders: 21.04.2008

[For further information, click here](#)

## **Miscellanea**

### **Antitrust: Commission presents policy paper on compensating consumer and business victims of competition breaches**

The European Commission has published a White Paper suggesting a new model for achieving compensation for consumers and businesses who are the victims of antitrust violations (breaches of

EC Treaty rules on restrictive business practices and abuse of dominant market positions). At present, there are serious obstacles in most EU Member States that discourage consumers and businesses from claiming compensation in court in private antitrust damages actions. The White Paper includes suggestions to make damages claims by victims more efficient, whilst ensuring respect for European legal systems and traditions. The model outlined by the Commission is based on compensation through single damages for the harm suffered. The White Paper's other key recommendations cover collective redress, disclosure of evidence and the effect of final decisions of competition authorities in subsequent damages actions. The recommendations balance rights and obligations of both the claimant and the defendant and include safeguards against abuses of litigation. Interested parties are invited to comment on the recommendations until 15 July 2008. The Commission will then reflect on concrete measures in the light of responses to the White Paper.

[Read more](#)

[To read the speech of the Commissioner N. Kroes, click here](#)

[To read the White Paper, click here](#)

### **EU & US antitrust policies our shared belief in competitive markets**

Neelie Kroes, European Commissioner for Competition Policy

Opening remarks at 56th Annual Spring Meeting of The American Bar Association Section of Antitrust Law

Washington, D.C, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008

[To read the full speech, click here](#)

### **Commission proposes 2009 to become European Year of Creativity and Innovation**

Europe needs to boost its capacity for creativity and innovation for both social and economic reasons. That is why the Commission has today adopted a proposal to declare 2009 the European Year of Creativity and Innovation. The decision will be taken later this year by the Council and the European Parliament.

[Read more](#)

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Other documents related to the cases, can be found under the link to the State aid Register: [http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state\\_aid/register/](http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/register/)

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