



Highlights

Commission authorises support package for Lithuanian financial institutions

The European Commission has approved under EU state aid rules a Lithuanian package intended to stabilise the markets as a response to the global financial crisis. The package will provide eligible credit institutions with new capital, guarantees on newly issued short and medium term debt, and relieve them of troubled assets under strict conditions. The Commission found the measures to be in line with its guidance Communications on state aid to overcome the financial crisis (see [IP/08/1495](#), [IP/08/1901](#) and [IP/09/322](#)). In particular, the package ensures non discriminatory access, is limited in time and scope, provides for a market-oriented remuneration and foresees adequate safeguards to minimise potential distortions of competition. The Commission therefore concluded that the scheme is an adequate means to remedy a serious disturbance in the Lithuanian economy and is as such compatible with Article 107.3.b of the EU Treaty.

[Read more](#)

Commission approves the transfer of the first tranche of impaired assets under the Irish asset relief scheme NAMA

The European Commission has authorised, under EU state aid rules, the transfer of the first tranche of assets to the Irish National Asset Management Agency (NAMA). The Commission found this transfer to be in line with the approved scheme (see [IP/10/198](#)) and with its guidance on the treatment of impaired assets (see [IP/09/322](#)). In particular, the transfer satisfies predefined transparency and disclosure requirements, the assets fulfil the criteria for participation in the scheme and their valuation complies with the requirements of the Commission's guidance and results in adequate burden sharing. The Commission also continues to rely on the commitments of the Irish authorities to ensure that NAMA does not lead to undue distortions of competition. The Commission has therefore concluded that the transfer of the first tranche of assets to NAMA represents an appropriate means of remedying a serious disturbance in the Irish economy and as such is compatible with Article 107(3)(b) of the EU Treaty.

[Midday Express 03.08.2010](#)

State aid: Commission closes formal investigation on state aid to Polish company PZL Hydral

The European Commission has closed the formal investigation procedure on state aid to PZL Hydral, a company which was specialised in civil and military aviation hydraulics. The Commission had concerns that the original restructuring plan, which was based on PLN 150 million of state aid (€36 million) would have infringed EU state aid rules (see [IP/08/1308](#) and [IP/08/1688](#)). Subsequently, Poland substantially modified the plan as a result of the intervention of a private investor who will acquire the remaining business activity (PZL Wroclaw). Once acquired, the investor will provide additional PLN 65 million (€16 million) of investments. This will ensure the future industrial development of this company.

[Continue on page 2](#)

In the issue:

- [Draft legislation and public consultations >>](#)
- [Decisions to open formal investigation >>](#)
- [Final Commission decisions >>](#)
- [Block exemptions >>](#)
- [Court of Justice of the European Union >>](#)
- [European Economic Area >>](#)
- [Additional points of interest >>](#)

Having evaluated the restructuring measures and in view of the changes to the original plan and abandoning some aid measures, the Commission concluded that the restructuring does not involve any state aid, because any financing is granted on market terms.

[Read more](#)

Dear readers,

State Aid Weekly e-News will be on holidays for the next four weeks. Our next issue will be published on 3 September 2010. In the meantime, we wish you all a very nice summer!

The Editorial Team

Draft legislation and public consultations

Subject	Deadlines for comments	Further information
State aid rules on services of general economic interest	10.09.2010	bg cs da de el en es et fi fr hu it lt lv mt nl pl pt ro sk sl sv

All public consultations: [DG Competition](#)
[DG Agriculture](#)
[DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries](#)

Decisions to open formal investigation

1. Decisions taken by the Commission

Country	Title	Case number	Objective	Decision date
DG Competition cases				
Netherlands	Restructuring aid to Fortis Bank Nederland and ABN Amro <i>Extend proceedings</i> Midday Express 30 July 2010	C 11/2009 (ex NN 53b/2008)	Restructuring aid	30.07.2010

2. Decisions pending OJ publication

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

3. Decisions published in the OJ from 05.07.2010 to 05.08.2010 – 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/link to documents	Case number	Objective	Decision date
DG Competition cases				

Bulgaria	Deferral and rescheduling of liabilities of Ruse Industry OJ C 187 of 10.07.2010, p. 7 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv Press release Deadline for comments* : 10.08.2010	C 12/2010 (ex N 389/2009)	Restructuring aid	14.04.2010
DG Agriculture cases				
Belgium	Aide à l'enlèvement et à la destruction des animaux trouvés morts OJ C 191 of 15.07.2010, p. 12 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv Press release Deadline for comments* : 16.08.2010	C 1/2010 (ex NN 56/2007)		13.01.2010

Final Commission decisions

1. Decisions taken by the Commission

1.1. Decisions to close formal investigation

Country	Title	Case number	Objective	Decision date
DG Competition cases				
Poland	Restructuring aid to PZL-Hydral S.A. <i>No aid decision</i> Press release	C 40/2008 (ex N 163/2008)		04.08.2010

1.2. No objection decisions

Country	Title	Case number	Objective	Decision date
DG Competition cases				
Germany	FuE Programm ProFIT	N 298/2010	R&D aid	03.08.2010
Ireland	Valuation of assets under NAMA - first tranche Midday Express 03.08.2010	N 331/2010	Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy	03.08.2010
Lithuania	Lithuanian Bank Recapitalisation and Asset Relief Scheme Press release	N 47/2010	Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy	05.08.2010

Lithuania	Lithuanian Bank Guarantee Scheme Press release	N 200/2009	Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy	05.08.2010
DG Agriculture cases				
Italy	Mesure 225 - Paiements sylvoenvironnementaux	N 253/2010	Forestry	02.08.2010
Italy	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	N 220/2010	Forestry	02.08.2010
Italy	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions - Intervention of economic character	N 250/2010	Forestry	02.08.2010
Spain	Aids under measures 226 and 227 of the RDP	N 134/2010	Environmental aid	04.08.2010

2. Public versions of decisions to close formal investigation*

* Since the OJ publication of no objection/no aid decisions follows very shortly their publication on the website, this section of the e-News focuses only on decisions to close formal investigations. For the latest texts of no objection/no aid decisions please look section 3 "Decisions published in the OJ".

- none -

3. Decisions published in the OJ

3.1. Decisions to close formal investigation

- none -

3.2. 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/link to documents*	Case number	Objective	Decision date
DG Competition cases				
Poland	Regional aid scheme for investments in energy, telecommunications infrastructure, R&D infrastructure and spa therapeutics OJ C 208 of 31.07.2010, p. 1 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	N 405/2008	Regional development aid	30.06.2009

Block exemptions

[Block exemption Information sheets published in the OJ and/or in the State aid register between 29.07.2010 and 05.08.2010](#)

Court of Justice of the European Union

* 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 Justice

Court case*	Parties	Country	Type of act	Date	Related case
C-243/10 OJ C 209 of 31.07.2010, p. 24 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	European Commission v Italian Republic	Italy	Action	18.05.2010	T-394/08 T-408/08 T-436/08 T-453/08 T-454/08 C 1/2004 (ex NN 158/2003) - Regional law Nr. 9/98 - Misuse of aid N 272/1998

2. General Court

- none -

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/link to documents*	Case number	Objective	Decision date
Decision to open formal investigation – 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.				
Norway	Sale of land in the municipality of Asker Dec. No 538/09/COL OJ C 184 of 08.07.2010, p. 20 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv Deadline for comments*: 09.08.2010	67392	Sale of land	16.12.2009
Norway	Financing of the fitness centre at the Kippermoen Leisure Centre Dec. No 537/09/COL OJ C 184 of 08.07.2010, p. 5 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv Deadline for comments*: 09.08.2010	67385		16.12.2009

Public versions of decisions made available				
Norway	Additional payments to Hurtigruten Decision 325/10/COL	68583	Maritime aid	14.06.2010

2. EFTA Court

- none -

3. State Aid New Legislation

- none -

4. Other EEA points of interest

- none -

Additional points of interest

Events

Services of General Economic Interest and State Aid: The Application of the Rules and National Experiences

This seminar is intended for officials of public authorities and of European Institutions, as well as for professionals from the private sector dealing with state aid granted to providers of services of general economic interest. Particularly, it would be of major interest to officials involved in the formulation of public service obligations, the award of contracts, the calculation of compensation and the notification of possible state aid to the European Commission.

Maastricht, 27-28.09.2010

[For further information, click here](#)

NEW Annual Forum on European State Aid Law 2010

The objective of this conference is to provide a unique platform for discussion and the exchange of views on the most topical issues related to state aid law. Key topics include: an analysis of the latest case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union, state aid in the field of environment and climate change, the exiting of the financial and economic crisis, in particular the application of existing rules to the recovery, fiscal state aid; state aid and access to justice, the application of state aid rules to Services of General Economic Interest (SGEI).

Trier, 28 -29 October 2010

[For further information, click here](#)

Studies and reports

Flash estimate - July 2010: Euro area inflation estimated at 1.7%

Euro area annual inflation is expected to be 1.7% in July 2010 according to a flash estimate issued by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. It was 1.4% in June.

[Read more](#)

June 2010: Euro area unemployment rate stable at 10.0%, EU27 stable at 9.6%

The euro area (EA16) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.0% in June 2010, unchanged compared with May. It was 9.5% in June 2009. The EU27 unemployment rate was 9.6% in June 2010, unchanged compared with May. It was 9.0% in June 2009.

[Read more](#)

Labour Force Survey: Employment rate in the EU27 fell to 64.6% in 2009 but rate for older workers up to 46.0%

The total employment rate for people aged 15-64 in the EU27 rose steadily from 62.4% in 2002 to 65.9% in 2008, but fell to 64.6% in 2009. The employment rate for women, which increased continuously from 53.7% in 2002 to 59.1% in 2008, dropped for the first time in 2009 to 58.6%. In contrast, the rate for older people, i.e. those aged 55-64, has continued to grow, reaching 46.0% in 2009, compared with 36.9% in 2002 and 45.6% in 2008.

[Read more](#)

Next publication date: Friday 03.09.2010

[Previous issues](#)

Subscription:

If you wish to subscribe to “State Aid Weekly e-News” and receive it every Friday in your Inbox for free, please [click here](#). To unsubscribe, please, use the same link.

Please, note that the information requested under “Change personal details” is not compulsory. In order to complete the subscription it is sufficient to fill in the data requested under “Add subscription”.

About e-News:

This e-News is issued every week to present the latest developments in the area of State aid. It features information on new legislative texts and proposals, decisions of the European Commission and the Courts of the European Union and other state aid-related documents and events. A great deal of additional information on State aid matters is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server: http://ec.europa.eu/competition/index_en.html

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/

Publisher:

European Commission

DG Competition

Unit H-3 – State aid network, Transparency and Fiscal aid

Chief Editor: Monique Negenman

Editing team: Piotr Papiieski, Helga van den Steen, Maria Auxiliadora Valpuesta Contreras, Marek Tóth, Souad Jemidar, Donatas Mykolaitis, Ulrich Diez.

mailto: comp-state-aid-eneews@ec.europa.eu

Disclaimer:

Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is responsible for the completeness, accuracy of the information and the use which might be made of the information provided in this document.

© European Union 2010.

Reproduction is authorised, provided the source is acknowledged, save where otherwise stated. Where prior permission must be obtained for the reproduction or use of textual and multimedia information, such permission shall cancel the above-mentioned general permission and shall clearly indicate any restrictions on use.