



European Commission

Competition

State Aid Weekly e-News

No. 25/10, 09.07.2010

02.07.2010 - 08.07.2010

Highlights

Competition in Digital Media and the Internet

Joaquín Almunia Vice President of the European Commission responsible for competition policy

UCL Jevons Lecture

London, 7 July 2010

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

Commission approves UK pension scheme NEST

The European Commission has approved under EU State aid rules the establishment of an occupational pension scheme, branded NEST, in the UK to ensure that all employees have access to an affordable pension vehicle. The scheme, part of a wider pensions' reform in the UK, is meant for low to moderate income earners that the existing market does not serve. The Commission found the measure to be compatible with EU State aid rules, because NEST carries out a service of general economic interest (SGEI) and receives no overcompensation for providing it.

[Read more](#)

Commission endorses €45 million aid to Deutsche Solar AG for solar wafer plant

The European Commission has authorised €45 million of regional investment aid for the German company Deutsche Solar AG for the production of solar wafers in Freiberg, Germany. The project involves an investment of €350 million and is expected to create at least 130 new jobs in the region. After an in-depth investigation, Germany reduced the planned aid amount to take account of aid already received by the same company for previous investments in the same sector. The Commission therefore concluded that the positive impact of the investment on regional development outweighs the potential distortions of competition.

[Read more](#)

Commission authorises €28.7 million aid to Liebherr for investment project in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

The European Commission authorised, under EU state aid rules, €28.7 million of regional investment aid that Germany intends to grant in favour of Liebherr-MCCtec Rostock GmbH for the extension of its production facility for ship and offshore cranes in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany. The project involves a total investment of €163.5 million and will create 500 new jobs in a region facing high structural unemployment. The Commission therefore concluded that the projects positive contribution to regional development outweighed any potential distortions of competition to be brought about by the aid.

[Read more](#)

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Commission authorises €3 million compensation for supplementary pension liabilities of Finnish shipping company Arctia Shipping Oy

The European Commission has authorised under EU state aid rules a Finnish aid to compensate the newly established shipping company Arctia Shipping Oy, for supplementary pension rights accrued by its staff before Finland opened up the ice-breaking activity. The Commission considers this measure necessary to put the company on an equal footing with its competitors.

[Read more](#)

State aid: Commission approves Hungarian short-term export credit insurance scheme

The European Commission has authorised, under EU State aid rules, a measure adopted by Hungary to limit the adverse impact of the current financial crisis on exporting firms. The Commission found the measure to be in line with its Temporary Framework for State aid measures to support access to finance in the current financial and economic crisis (see [IP/08/1993](#)). In particular, the measure requires a market-oriented remuneration and tackles the problem of the current unavailability of the short-term export credit insurance cover in the private market. The Commission authorised the measure until 31 December 2010.

[Midday Express 5 July 2010](#)

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](#)

Simplified Procedure: notification summaries

Invitation to comment on simplified procedure cases

The summaries of aid measures notified under the Notice on a Simplified Procedure for the treatment of certain types of State aid have been prepared by the Member States under their responsibility. The Commission can therefore not be held responsible for any incorrect or misleading information contained therein. Observations raising competition issues relating to the notified measure must reach the Commission no later than 10 working days following the date of the publication of a summary of notification. The submission shall include a non confidential version of the observations. [For more information, click here](#)

Country	Title	Case number	Publication date
United Kingdom	Amendment to EC approval N 590/2008 - Renewables Obligation (Scotland) en	N 259/2010	25.06.2010

Decisions to open formal investigation

1. Decisions taken by the Commission

Country	Title	Case number	Objective	Decision date
DG Competition cases				
Greece	Aid to certain Greek Casinos	C 16/2010 (ex NN 22/2010)		06.07.2010
Greece	Privatisation du casino de Mont Parnes	C 15/2010 (ex NN 21/2010)		06.07.2010
Hungary	Aid to Audi Hungaria Motor Ltd <i>Extend proceedings</i>	C 31/2009 (ex 113/2009)	Regional development aid	06.07.2010

2. Decisions pending OJ publication

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

3. Decisions published in the OJ from 08.06.2010 to 08.07.2010 – 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				
Poland	Restructuring aid to PZL-Hydral S.A. OJ C 158 of 18.06.2010, p. 9 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* : 19.07.2010	C 40/2008 (ex N 163/2008)	Restructuring aid	10.09.2008

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				
Germany	Deutsche Solar AG <i>Positive decision</i> Press release	C 34/2008 (ex N 170/2008)	Regional development aid	06.07.2010

Poland	Restructuring of the Polish tube sector <i>Decision to close formal investigation procedure (no competence)</i>	C 48/2007 (ex NN 60/2007)	Restructuring aid	06.07.2010
Romania	Privatisation Mittal Steel Roman <i>Decision to close formal investigation procedure (no competence)</i>	C 40/2007 (NN 48/2007)		06.07.2010

1.2. No objection decisions

Country	Title	Case number	Objective	Decision date
DG Competition cases				
Finland	Compensation to Arctia Shipping Oy with respect to supplementary pension rights of its employees Press release	N 152/2010		06.07.2010
France	Aménagement de zones d'activités à la Réunion	N 654/2009	Regional development aid	06.07.2010
Germany	Entrepreneurs-fonds de la KfW pour le fonds de roulement et des investissements	N 689/2009		06.07.2010
Germany	Aid to Liebherr MCCtec Rostock GmbH Press release	N 261/2009	Regional development aid	06.07.2010
Hungary	Short term export credit insurance scheme Midday Express 5 July 2010	N 187/2010	Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy	05.07.2010
Italy	National method to calculate the aid element in guarantees to SMEs	N 182/2010	SME aid	06.07.2010
Italy	Amendment to the Italian regional aid map 2007-13	N 117/2010	Regional development aid	06.07.2010
Poland	Aid measures with a cultural objective under the Regional Development Operational Programme "Innovative Economy"	N 568/2009	Heritage conservation aid	06.07.2010
Poland	Prolongation of Polish bank recapitalisation scheme	N 262/2010		05.07.2010
Slovenia	Slovenian Film Fund	N 454/2009	Culture aid	08.07.2010
Spain	Aid to short films in Spain	N 205/2010	Culture aid	08.07.2010
United Kingdom	Establishment of national occupational pension scheme Press release	N 158/2009	Services of general economic interest aid	06.07.2010
DG Agriculture cases				
Finland	Aid for the cessation of agricultural production	N 42/2010		06.07.2010

Spain	Aides à l'application des mesures agroenvironnementales à la vigne	N 79/2010	Environmental aid	05.07.2010
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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".

Country	Title	Case number	Objective	Decision date
DG Competition cases				
Greece	Olympic Airways/Olympic Airlines <i>Negative decision with recovery</i>	C 61/2007 (ex NN 71/2007)		17.09.2008
Greece	Olympic Airways – Privatisation <i>Negative decision with recovery</i>	C 11/2004 (ex NN 4/2003)	Sectoral development aid	04.07.2006

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				
Finland	Residential REITs tax scheme OJ C 178 of 03.07.2010, p. 1 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv Press release	N 131/2009	Sectoral development aid	12.05.2010
France	Avance remboursable au projet "Trappes de train principale de Daher-Socata OJ C 178 of 03.07.2010, p. 2 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv Press release	N 527/2009	R&D aid	14.04.2010
France	Avance remboursable au projet Case de train principal de Sogerma OJ C 178 of 03.07.2010, p. 2 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	N 525/2009	R&D aid	14.04.2010

Germany	Third prolongation of German bank support scheme OJ C 178 of 03.07.2010, p. 3 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	N 222/2010	Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy	23.06.2010
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Block exemptions

[Block exemption Information sheets published in the OJ and/or in the State aid register between 01.07.2010 and 08.07.2010](#)

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
Joined cases: C-78/08 C-79/08 C-80/08	Paint Graphos	Italy	Opinion	08.07.2010	Tax relief measures for cooperative societies, pursuant to Articles 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of Presidential Decree No 601 of 1973

2. General Court

Court case*	Parties	Country	Type of act	Date	Related case
T-192/10 OJ C 179 of 03.07.2009, p. 45 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	Ferracci v Commission	Italy	Action	26.04.2010	Appeal regarding an administrative letter - the applicant's complaint was dismissed
T-193/10 OJ C 179 of 03.07.2009, p. 46 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	Scuola Elementare Maria Montessori v Commission	Italy	Action	26.04.2010	Appeal regarding an administrative letter - the applicant's complaint was dismissed

T-201/10 OJ C 179 of 03.07.2009, p. 49 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	IVBN v Commission	Netherlands	Action	30.04.2010	E 2/2005 and N 642/2009 - Existing and special project aid to housing corporations
T-202/10 OJ C 179 of 03.07.2009, p. 50 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	Stichting Woonlinie and Others v Commission	Netherlands	Action	30.04.2010	E 2/2005 and N 642/2009 - Existing and special project aid to housing corporations
T-203/10 OJ C 179 of 03.07.2009, p. 51 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	Stichting Woonpunt and Others v Commission	Netherlands	Action	30.04.2010	E 2/2005 and N 642/2009 - Existing and special project aid to housing corporations
T-206/10 OJ C 179 of 03.07.2009, p. 53 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	Vesteda Groep v Commission	Netherlands	Action	30.04.2010	E 2/2005 and N 642/2009 - Existing and special project aid to housing corporations
T-219/10 OJ C 179 of 03.07.2009, p. 54 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	Autogrill España v Commission	Spain	Action	14.05.2010	C 45/2007 (ex NN 51/2007) - Amortization of financial goodwill for acquisitions of foreign target
T-221/10 OJ C 179 of 03.07.2009, p. 55 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	Iberdrola v Commission	Spain	Action	14.05.2010	C 45/2007 (ex NN 51/2007) - Amortization of financial goodwill for acquisitions of foreign target
T-225/10 OJ C 179 of 03.07.2009, p. 56 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria v Commission	Spain	Action	18.05.2010	C 45/2007 (ex NN 51/2007) - Amortization of financial goodwill for acquisitions of foreign target

T-43/08 OJ C 179 of 03.07.2009, p. 57 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	Shetland Islands Council v Commission	United Kingdom	Removal from the register	11.05.2010	C 38/2006 (ex NN 93/2005) - Fish factory improvement scheme
T-44/08 OJ C 179 of 03.07.2009, p. 57 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	Shetland Islands Council v Commission	United Kingdom	Removal from the register	11.05.2010	C 39/2006 (ex NN 94/2005) - First time shareholders scheme
T-197/08 OJ C 179 of 03.07.2009, p. 57 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	Polson and others v. Commission	United Kingdom	Removal from the register	11.05.2010	C 39/2006 (ex NN 94/2005) - First time shareholders scheme

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	<p>NEW EFTA Surveillance Authority Decision No. 538/09/COL of 16 December 2009 to initiate the procedure provided for in Article 1(2) in Part I of Protocol 3 to the Surveillance and Court Agreement with regard to the notification of sale of land in the municipality of Asker</p> <p>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</p> <p>Deadline for comments*: 09.08.2010</p>	67392	Sale of land	16.12.2009

Norway	NEW EFTA Surveillance Authority Decision No. 537/09/COL of 16 December 2009 to initiate the procedure provided for in Article 1(2) in Part I of Protocol 3 to the Surveillance and Court Agreement with regard to the financing of the fitness centre at the Kippermoen Leisure Centre 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
Norway	Norsk Film group OJ C 174 of 01.07.2010, p. 3 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* : 02.08.2010	67377	Film industry	02.12.2009
Newly adopted decisions				
Norway	EFTA Surveillance Authority Decision No 254/10/COL of 7 July 2010 on the proposed amendment to the Norwegian Special Tax System for Shipping Press release	67488	Maritime transport aid	07.07.2010
Norway	EFTA Surveillance Authority Decision No 254/10/COL of 21 June 2010 on AS Oslo Sporveier and AS Sporveisbussene Press release	60510	Transport aid	21.06.2010

2. EFTA Court

- none -

3. State Aid New Legislation

- none -

4. Other EEA points of interest

- none -

Additional points of interest

Statement on economic governance in the EU

José Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission

European Parliament plenary session debate

Strasbourg, 6 July 2010

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

Events

Conference: Post-crisis - tackling illegal aid in the courts,

The conference is organised jointly by the Competition Section of the Law Society of England and Wales and the Society's EU Committee.

London, 13 July 2010

[For further information, click here](#)

Studies and reports

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

The euro area (EA16) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.0% in May 2010, unchanged compared with April. It was 9.4% in May 2009. The EU27 unemployment rate was 9.6% in May 2010, unchanged compared with April. It was 8.9% in May 2009.

[Read more](#)

Second estimates for the first quarter of 2010: Euro area and EU27 GDP up by 0.2%, +0.6% and +0.5% respectively compared with the first quarter of 2009

Euro area (EA16) and EU27 GDP both increased by 0.2% during the first quarter of 2010, compared with the previous quarter, according to second estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In the fourth quarter of 2009, growth rates were +0.1% in the euro area and +0.2% in the EU27. In comparison with the same quarter of the previous year, seasonally adjusted GDP rose in the first quarter of 2010 by 0.6% in the euro area and by 0.5% in the EU27, after -2.1% and -2.3% respectively in the previous quarter.

[Read more](#)

Miscellanea

New EU Investment package set to boost trade and underpin investor rights

The European Commission today took the first step towards a comprehensive European international investment policy with two initiatives. A policy paper lays out how the new EU competence on foreign direct investment can be used to boost competitiveness and trade resulting in growth and jobs. At the same time a draft regulation sets up transitional arrangements offering guarantees on existing or pending bilateral investment treaties concluded between EU and Non-EU countries. Under the Lisbon Treaty, investment policy will be developed and managed at the European level giving the EU a strengthened negotiating hand to deliver better investment protection for all European businesses.

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[Q&A: Commission launches comprehensive European international investment policy](#)

Next publication date: Friday 16.07.2010

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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/

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