



State Aid Weekly e-News

Nr. 31/07, 14.09.2007

07.09.2007 - 13.09.2007

Highlights

Draft general block exemption of the Commission in the State aid area

OJ C 210 of 08.09.2007, p. 14 [bg](#) [es](#) [cs](#) [da](#) [de](#) [et](#) [el](#) [en](#) [fr](#) [it](#) [lv](#) [lt](#) [hu](#) [mt](#) [nl](#) [pl](#) [pt](#) [ro](#) [sk](#) [sl](#) [fi](#) [sv](#)

[For details of the open consultation, see section I. Draft legislation and public consultations of this Newsletter](#)

Beijing speech

Neelie Kroes, European Commissioner for Competition Policy

The University of International Business and Economics

Beijing, China, 5th September 2007

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

Commission approves Italian 'cuneo fiscale' tax reduction scheme

The European Commission has authorised, under EC Treaty state aid rules, the so-called 'cuneo fiscale', a tax measure adopted by Italy. The scheme offers deductions from the regional tax on all types of business activities (IRAP). The Commission concluded that following certain modifications adopted by the Italian Authorities, 'cuneo fiscale' became a general measure and so does not constitute state aid.

[Read more](#)

Commission authorises two French R&D aid projects totalling €119 million

The European Commission has decided not to raise any objections under Community state aid rules regarding the financial aid to be provided by the French Industrial Innovation Agency to two research and development programmes, "NanoSmart" and "HOMES". The Commission took these two decisions on the basis of the in-depth study required by the new Community Framework on research, development and innovation aid. The NanoSmart programme for the nanotechnology industries is designed to improve the performance of microelectronic and optoelectronic components. NanoSmart is being carried out by the enterprise SOITEC in partnership with the research centre CEA-LETI. The HOMES programme, aimed at increasing energy efficiency in buildings, brings together Schneider Electric and 15 other enterprises and research centres. The state aid granted is €80 million for NanoSmart and €39 million for HOMES.

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I. Draft legislation and public consultations

NEW Draft general block exemption of the Commission in the State aid area

OJ C 210 of 08.09.2007, p. 14 [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: 08.10.2007

Interested parties may submit their comments of this draft Regulation to:

European Commission

Directorate-General for Competition
Consultation on general block exemption (HT 364)
State aid Registry
B-1049 Brussels
Fax (32-2) 296 12 42
E-mail: stateaidgreffe@ec.europa.eu

Draft revised Commission Notice on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to State aid in the form of guarantees

[bg](#) [cs](#) [da](#) [de](#) [et](#) [el](#) [en](#) [es](#) [fr](#) [it](#) [lt](#) [lv](#) [hu](#) [mt](#) [nl](#) [pl](#) [pt](#) [ro](#) [sk](#) [sl](#) [fi](#) [sv](#)

Deadline for comments: 25.09.2007

Interested parties may submit their comments on the draft Notice to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
State aid Registry
HT 920
B-1049 Brussels
Fax (32-2) 296 12 42
E-mail: stateaidgreffe@ec.europa.eu

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

II. New legislation

- none -

III. Decisions to open formal investigation

1. Decisions taken by the Commission

Country	Title	Case number	Objective	Decision date
DG Competition cases				
Belgium	Training aid to Volvo Cars in Gent Press release	C 35/2007 (ex N 256/2007)	Training aid	12.09.2007
Germany	Complaint against the German State for unlawful state aid to Deutsche Post Press release	C 36/2007 (ex NN 25/2007)	Services of general economic interest	12.09.2007

France	Alleged aid to Arbel Fauvet Rail SA	C 38/2007 (ex NN 45/2007)	12.09.2007
DG Transport and Energy cases			
Italy	Air One/Ryanair - Aéroport d'Alghero Press release	C 37/2007 (ex NN 36/2007)	12.09.2007
Poland	Introduction of a tonnage tax scheme in favour of maritime transport Press Release	C 34/2007 (ex N 93/2006)	12.09.2007

2. Decisions pending OJ publication

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

3. Decisions published in the OJ from 13.08.2007 to 14.09.2007 – 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
DG Competition cases				
Germany	NEW Training aid for DHL Leipzig OJ C 213 of 12.09.2007, p. 28 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*: 12.10.2007	C 18/2007 (ex N 874/2006)	Training aid	27.06.2007
Czech Republic	Credit insurance for SMEs OJ C 205 of 04.09.2007, p. 19 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*: 04.10.2007	C 19/2007 (ex N 32/2007)		27.06.2007
Slovakia	Tax exemption to Glunz&Jensen OJ C 189 of 14.08.2007, 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 Deadline for comments*: 14.09.2007	C 12/2007 (ex N 799/2006)	Regional development aid	24.04.2007
DG Fisheries cases				
Portugal	NEW Santa Catarina - Industria Conserveira, Lda. OJ C 215 of 14.09.2007, p. 16 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*: 15.10.2007	C 30/2007 (ex N 555/2006)		18.07.2007

DG Transport and Energy cases

Denmark	NEW Tonnage Tax - Cable Laying Vessels – prolongation NN 116/1998 Press release OJ C 213 of 12.09.2007, p. 22 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*: 12.10.2007	C 22/2007 (ex N 43/2007)	10.07.2007
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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
DG Competition cases				
Denmark	Training aid for foreign workers	N 383/2007	Training aid	10.09.2007
France	Soutien de l'Agence de l'innovation industrielle en faveur du programme « NANOSMART » Press release	N 185/2007	R&D aid	12.09.2007
France	Projet d'aide de l'Agence de l'innovation industrielle au PMII HOMES Press release	N 89/2007	R&D aid	12.09.2007
Germany	R&D&I scheme for enterprises in Sachsen-Anhalt	N 267/2007	R&D aid	11.09.2007
Germany	Prolongation of Future Fund Berlin	N 819/2006	R&D aid	11.09.2007
Italy	Cuneo fiscale (tax wedge) Press release	N 184/2007	No aid	12.09.2007
Italy	Aid scheme for research and development in Val d'Aosta	N 335/2007	R&D aid	10.09.2007
Italy	Budget increase for environmental scheme N 601/2006 - Trent	N 459/2007	Environmental aid	10.09.2007
Poland	Prolongation of the case PL 10/2004	N 6/2007	Environmental aid	11.09.2007
DG Agriculture cases				
Ireland	Afforestation Grant and Premium Scheme Press release	N 161/2007	Environmental aid	12.09.2007
DG Transport and Energy cases				

Austria	Prêts bonifiés au secteur du transport (route, rail, voies navigables) - prolongation du N 644/2001 Press release	N 76/2007		12.09.2007
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1.2. Decisions to close formal investigation

Country	Title	Case number	Objective	Decision date
DG Competition cases				
Poland	Restructuring aid for Bison-Bial Press release	C 54/2006	Restructuring aid	12.09.2007
DG Transport and Energy cases				
Czech Republic	Aide au transport combiné pour la periode 2006-2010 Press release	C 12/2006		12.09.2007

2. Public versions of decisions made available

2.1. No objection decisions

Country	Title/Links to documents*	Case number	Objective	Decision date
DG Competition cases				
France	Projet de contrat de concession pour la conception, réalisation et exploitation d'un réseau à très haut débit sur le sud-est toulousain (SICOVAL)	N 890/2006	Sectoral development aid	10.07.2007
Germany	Prolongation of rescue and restructuring scheme for SMEs in Bremen	N 275/2007	Rescue aid	11.07.2007
Poland	Aid to "Zakłady Aktywnosci Zawodowej" - Establishments of professional activity for seriously disabled people	N 558/2005	No aid	27.06.2007
Poland	Guarantee scheme for export contracts	N 105/2007	No aid	18.07.2007
Slovakia	Regional aid to Hysco Slovakia s.r.o.	N 875/2006	Regional development aid	18.07.2007
Slovakia	Kia Motors Slovakia	N 857/2006	Regional development aid	18.07.2007
Spain	Aid for newly created small enterprises in Murcia	N 203/2007	Regional development aid	10.07.2007

DG Fisheries cases				
Czech Republic	Damage to fish stocks by flooding in spring 2006	N 914/2006	Compensation of damages caused by natural disaster	04.05.2007
Czech Republic	Ministerstva zemědělství pro poskytování a čerpání přímých dotací vodnímu hospodářství na úhradu odstranění škod po povodních z května až července 2006	N 755/2006		04.05.2007
Netherlands	Fonds voor vispromotie	N 135/2007	Fisheries aid	14.05.2007

2.2. Decisions to close formal investigation

- none -

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
DG Competition cases				
Italy	MSF-2002-IT Atlantica Invest AG OJ C 213 of 12.09.2007, 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 549/2006	Regional development aid	13.06.2007
Poland	Guarantee scheme for export contracts OJ C 214 of 13.09.2007, 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 105/2007	Promotion of export and internationalisation	18.07.2007
Slovakia	Kia Motors Slovakia OJ C 214 of 13.09.2007, p. 4 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	N 857/2006	Regional development aid	18.07.2007
Slovakia	Advantageous tax treatment for utilisation of fuels from renewables pursuant to directive 2003/96/ES (Biofuels) OJ C 213 of 12.09.2007, 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 360/2006	Environmental aid	19.07.2007
DG Transport and Energy cases				

France	Liaisons régulières Réunion-Métropole OJ C 214 of 13.09.2007, 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 236/2006		07.06.2006
Germany	Contributions financières 2003 - aide à la formation OJ C 214 of 13.09.2007, p. 2 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	NN 126/2003	Sectoral development aid	01.10.2003
Germany	Directive for the promotion of German maritime shipping of 14 June 2002 (Financial contributions for 2002) OJ C 214 of 13.09.2007, p. 1 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	NN 94/2002	Sectoral development aid	30.10.2002
DG Fisheries cases				
Czech Republic	Damage to fish stocks by flooding in spring 2006 OJ C 213 of 12.09.2007, 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 914/2006	Compensation of damages caused by natural disaster	04.05.2007
Czech Republic	Repairs to damage caused by floods from May to July 2006 to dykes and fishpond structures OJ C 213 of 12.09.2007, 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 755/2006		04.05.2007
Netherlands	Fonds voor vispromotie OJ C 213 of 12.09.2007, p. 4 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	N 135/2007		14.05.2007

3.2. Decisions to close formal investigation

- none -

V. Other types of decisions

Country	Title/ Links to documents	Case number	Objective	Decision date
Decisions published in the OJ				
DG Competition cases				
Greece	Regional aid to textile sector in Greece <i>Withdrawal of notification (after formal investigation procedure)</i> OJ C 214 of 13.09.2007, p. 9 bg es cs da de et	C 44/2006	Regional development aid	20.07.2007

VI. Block exemptions

Information sheets published in the OJ

- none -

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
Joined cases T-239/04 T-323/04	Italy v. Commission	Italy	Judgement	12.09.2007	C 62/2003 (ex NN 7/2003)
T-348/03	Friesland Coberco Dairy Foods Holding v. Commission ECJ Press release	Netherlands	Judgement	12.09.2007	C 51/2001
T-25/04	González y Díez v. Commission	Spain	Judgement	12.09.2007	C 19/2003
T-68/03	Olympiaki Aeroporia Ypiresies v. Commission ECJ Press release	Greece	Judgement	12.09.2007	C 19/2002
T-196/02	MTU Friedrichshafen v. Commission	Germany	Judgement	12.09.2007	C 44/2000 CR 44/2000

2. Court of Justice

Court case	Title	Country	Type of act	Date	Related case
C-408/04 P	Commission v. Salzgitter	Germany	Opinion	11.09.2007	T-308/00 C 10/1999 CR 10/1999

C-295/07 P OJ C 211 of 08.09.2007, p.19 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	Commission against the judgement of the CFI Commission v. Département du Loiret, supported by Scott SA	France	Application	20.06.2007	T-369/00 C 38/1998 CR 38/1998
C-305/07 OJ C 211 of 08.09.2007, p. 22 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	RAI <i>Preliminary ruling</i>	Italy	Application	02.07.2007	E 9/2005
C-319/07 P OJ C 211 of 08.09.2007, p. 27 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	SID against the order of the CFI SID v. Commission	Denmark	Application	11.07.2007	T-30/03 NN 116/1998
C-333/07 OJ C 211 of 08.09.2007, p. 29 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv	Regie Networks <i>Preliminary ruling</i>	France	Application	17.07.2007	N 679/1997

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
Newly adopted decisions				
Norway	Modification of the scheme on Centres for Research-based innovation Press release	62756		12.09.2007

2. EFTA Court

- none -

3. State Aid New Legislation

EFTA Surveillance Authority Decision amending for the 45th time the Procedural and Substantive Rules in the Field of State Aid by amending Chapter 24A: 'State aid to maritime transport' and Annex VIII and proposal for appropriate measures

Decision 62/04/COL of 31.03.2004

OJ L 240 of 13.09.2007, p. 9 [bg](#) [es](#) [cs](#) [da](#) [de](#) [et](#) [el](#) [en](#) [fr](#) [it](#) [lv](#) [lt](#) [hu](#) [mt](#) [nl](#) [pl](#) [pt](#) [ro](#) [sk](#) [sl](#) [fi](#) [sv](#)

4. Other EEA points of interest

- none -

IX. Additional points of interest

Events

Conference: "The law and economics of European State aid Control"

Berlin, 8-9 October 2007

[For further information, click here](#)

State Aid Policy and Practice in the European Community - An Integrative and Interactive Approach

The Seminar intended for officials from central and local governments and managers from public enterprises who may be involved in the formulation and implementation of state aid schemes. The seminars are also open to managers of enterprises that may receive aid.

Maastricht, 18-19 October 2007

[For further information, click here](#)

Competition Day 2007: II Lisbon Conference on Competition Law and Economics

Lisbon, 15-16 November 2007

[For further information, click here](#)

Studies and reports

EU interim economic forecasts: Growth revised slightly for 2007, with downward risks increasing

Based on an update for the seven largest Member States in the European Union, the Commission forecasts economic growth in 2007 at 2.8% in the EU and 2.5% in the euro area. This represents a downward revision of 0.1 percentage points (pp.) compared with the spring forecast. European growth is expected to remain supported by sound fundamentals and a still favourable global environment. Nevertheless, the recent turbulence has clearly increased the downward risks to this outlook. On the inflation front, consumer prices in 2007 are expected to increase by 2.2% in the EU and 2.0% in the euro area (up by 0.1 pp. compared with the spring) as higher commodity prices take their toll.

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First estimate for the second quarter of 2007: Euro area and EU27 employment up by 0.5%

The seasonally adjusted number of persons employed in the euro area (EA13) rose by 0.5% (776 000 persons) during the second quarter of 2007, according to provisional national accounts estimates published by Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities. During the same period, the number of persons employed in the EU27 grew also by 0.5% (1 010 000 persons). In the first quarter of 2007, growth rates were +0.6% in the euro area and +0.4% in the EU27.

[Read more](#)

July 2007 compared to June 2007: Industrial production up by 0.6% in euro area

In July 2007 compared with June 2007, seasonally adjusted industrial production increased by 0.6% in the euro area (EA13) and by 0.4% in the EU27. In June production remained stable in the euro area and grew by 0.1% in the EU27.

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Second quarter 2007 compared to second quarter 2006: Euro area labour cost rose by 2.5%

Total hourly labour costs in the euro area (EA13) rose at an annual rate of 2.5% in nominal terms up to the second quarter of 2007, compared with 2.3% for the previous quarter². In the EU27, the annual rise was 3.2% up to the second quarter of 2007, compared with 3.6% for the previous quarter.

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Miscellanea

Fast-track to competitive business: European Commission proposes Joint Programme with Member States for research-intensive small companies

R&D-performing Small and Medium-sized companies (SMEs) are the entrepreneurial stars of Europe. Responding to their specific needs, the Commission has adopted today EUROSTARS, a new Joint Programme with 27 EUREKA countries to finance R&D partnerships with research-performing SMEs. In addition to the Commission contribution of EUR 100 million, 22 EU Member states^[1] and 5 countries associated to FP7^[2] will jointly contribute another EUR 300 million, giving a total investment of EUR 400 million over 6 years. This will, in turn, mobilise up to EUR 400 million in additional private funding, resulting in an estimated EUR 800 million package to support European R&D performing SMEs. Through EUROSTARS, participating countries will pool their national programmes and research funding in favour of SMEs, resulting in better, more efficient use of funds.

[Read more](#)

European Commission demands better use of European research, innovation and cohesion funding

If the European Union is going to promote the economic and social development of all its Member States, it is essential that the various sources of funding that can support this are used in a coherent way. In a policy paper presented, the European Commission offers guidance to national and regional authorities on how to interlink Cohesion Policy programmes with innovation and research funding under the Seventh Research Framework Programme and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme. While proposing a number of ways in which the Commission will work to enable the various sources of funds to be used in the most effective way, the paper clearly calls upon Member States and the regions themselves to play a leading role in making the best use of the European funds at their disposal.

[Read more](#)

The future of the Single Market

Charlie McCreevy, European Commissioner for Internal Market and Services

Wolfsberg Conference

Thun, 10th September 2007

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

Next publication date: Friday 21.09.2007

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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/

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