Highlights

State aid modernisation: Issues paper on evaluation in the field of State aid
The purpose of this issues paper is to explain the role of evaluation in the field of State aid, to collect information on Member States’ existing practice on evaluation of aid schemes and to gather the view of the Member States on the identified issues. This document shall also serve as a basis for discussion in the workshop between the Commission services, Member States and other stakeholders scheduled to 23 April 2013 in Brussels.
Read more

Commission extends inquiry into public support measures for Estonian Air
The European Commission has extended the scope of an in-depth investigation opened in February 2013 into public support measures in favour of Estonian Air (see IP/13/133) to include the decision by Estonia on 28 February 2013 to increase a previous rescue loan by €28.7 million. The Commission will now investigate whether the measure is in line with EU state aid rules. The extension of the investigation will give interested third parties an opportunity to comment on this additional measure. It does not prejudice the outcome of the investigation.
Read more

UK video games tax relief faces Commission scrutiny
The European Commission has opened an in-depth investigation into the proposed UK video games tax relief. The objective of the measure is to provide an incentive to video games developers to produce games meeting certain cultural criteria. However, the Commission considers that there is no obvious market failure in this dynamic and growing sector and that such games are produced even without state aid. Consequently, at this stage, the Commission doubts that the aid is necessary. The opening of an in-depth investigation does not prejudice its outcome. It gives the UK and other interested parties the opportunity to comment.
Read more

Overview of decisions and on-going in-depth investigations in the context of the financial crisis
In 2008/2009, the Commission adopted a temporary state aid framework to enable Member States to deal with financial problems in systemic banks, as well as support access to finance for real economy firms. The crisis rules for banks, which were tightened in July and December 2010, were extended on 1 December 2011. The Temporary Framework for state aid measures to support access to finance in the current financial and economic crisis expired in December 2011.
For further information, click here

In this issue:

- New legislation >>
- 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 >>

New legislation

Commission notice on current State aid recovery interest rates and reference/discount rates for 27 Member States applicable as from 1 May 2013
For further information, click here
The document above is published for information purposes only and without any prejudice to the official text as will be published in the Official Journal

Draft legislation and public consultations

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Decisions to open formal investigation

1. Decisions taken by the Commission

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2. Decisions pending OJ publication

Click here to see the full list

3. Decisions published in the OJ from 18.03.2013 to 18.04.2013 – 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.

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<td>SA.32016</td>
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Final Commission decisions

1. Decisions taken by the Commission

1.1. Decisions to close formal investigation

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1.2. No objection decisions

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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".

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Italy

Sovvenzione di esercizio alla società CAREMAR S.p.A. per lo svolgimento dei servizi di trasporto marittimio di continuità territoriale

**Decision to extend proceedings**

**Press release**

OJ C 84 of 22.03.2013, p. 58 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv hu nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv

**Deadline for comments***: 22.04.2013

**SA.32014**

**Services of general economic interest**


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State Aid Weekly e-News No 14/13
### 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.

- none -

### Block exemptions

Block exemption Information sheets published in the OJ and/or in the State aid register between 11.04.2013 and 18.04.2013

### 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.

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#### 2. General Court

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### 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

<table>
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<tr>
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| Iceland | **NEW** Amendments to VAT applicable to customers of data centres  
*Decision 3/13/COL*  
OJ C 111 of 18.04.2013, p. 5  
*Press release*  
*Deadline for submitting comments*: 21.05.2013 | 70459 | Tax exemptions | 16.01.2013 |

Public versions of decisions made available
2. EFTA Court

- none -

3. State Aid New Legislation

- none -

4. Other EEA points of interest

The EFTA Surveillance Authority launches Public Document Database
Press release

The EFTA Surveillance Authority publishes its Annual Report for 2012
Press release

Additional points of interest

Events

State Aid in the Transport Sector
EIPA
Maastricht, 5-6 June 2013
For further information, click here

Studies and reports

March 2013
Euro area annual inflation down to 1.7%
EU down to 1.9%

Euro area annual inflation was 1.7% in March 2013, down from 1.8% in February. A year earlier the rate was 2.7%. Monthly inflation was 1.2% in March 2013.
European Union annual inflation was 1.9% in March 2013, down from 2.0% in February. A year earlier the rate was 2.9%. Monthly inflation was 0.9% in March 2013.
Read more

Invitations to tender

Call for proposals: Training of National Judges in EU Competition Law and judicial co-operation
Deadline for submission of applications: 30/04/2013

On September 2007 the European Parliament and the Council adopted Decision No 1149/2007/EC establishing for the period 2007-2013 the Specific Grant Program Civil Justice as part of the General Program Fundamental Rights and Justice. One of the actions provided for by the Decision concerns training for national judges in European competition law, including state aid rules and private damages training. Thus, grants may be awarded to support measures taken by bodies which foster judicial cooperation and other measures aimed at promoting training in EU competition law for national judges and cooperation between them:

- the organisation of conferences, seminars, symposia or meetings on EU competition law for national judges;
- short or long-term training in EU competition law as part of study programmes for national judges;
- the distribution of documentation and information on EU competition law specifically tailored to the needs of national judges;
- cooperation, including the setting-up and/or maintenance of networks and/or databases, between judicial authorities or other public or private bodies responsible for encouraging or monitoring the proper application of EU competition law by national judges.

Projects must cover the implementation of Articles 101 and 102 of the TFEU and may include the issue of private enforcement and/or state aid rules.

Priority areas
Projects should address at least one of the following areas:

- Improvement of knowledge, application and interpretation of EU competition law;
  Projects should consist of training activities in the form of conferences, seminars, colloquia, meetings and symposia, as well as short or long term training courses on EU competition law for the target audience as defined in point 2.2 of the Call.
- Support to National Judicial Institutions on Competition Law knowledge;
  Projects submitted under this category should be organised by one or more national judicial institutions - in particular as part of the initial training period of judges and prosecutors - with regard to the application of EU competition law.
- Improving and/or creating cooperation/networks;
  Projects should cover activities promoting the cooperation and/or networking between national judges, in particular between judicial authorities or other public or private organisations or associations active
in the field of the application of EU competition law by national judges or those responsible for encouraging or monitoring the correct application of EU competition law by national judges.

OJ C 45 of 16.02.2013, p. 2

Read more

**Council of the European Union**

**Eurogroup: good progress in several key areas**
The Eurogroup on 12 April 2013 endorsed the policy conditionality attached to financial assistance to Cyprus and the Troika’s proposal to extend loan maturities to Ireland and Portugal. It commended the Irish and Portuguese authorities for their programme implementation and took stock of the situation in Greece. The ministers also discussed several key issues regarding the operational framework for direct bank recapitalisation by the European Stability Mechanism.

Read more

**Eurogroup Statement on Cyprus**
The Eurogroup welcomes the staff-level agreement that has been reached between Cyprus and the Troika institutions on the policy conditionality underlying the macroeconomic adjustment programme. The agreement is fully in line with the parameters and key objectives set by the Eurogroup on 25 March.

Read more

**Miscellanea**

**EU Cohesion Policy is helping to weather the crisis and produce growth, says Commission 2013 Strategic Report**
The European Commission has today presented an overview of how EU Structural Funds are working in Member States. The ‘Strategic Report’ on the implementation of 2007–2013 Cohesion Policy programmes pulls together available information from Member States, up to end-2011 in most cases. With 4 more years to go until the programmes finish in 2015, investments under the European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund and European Social Fund have already led to progress and improvement for many citizens.

Read more

Next publication date: Friday 26.04.2013

**Previous issues**

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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](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/](http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/register/)

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