Highlights

Relying on the Single Market for the future of Europe
Joaquín Almunia, Vice President of the European Commission responsible for Competition Policy
European Competition Forum 2013
Brussels, 28 February 2013
To read the full speech, click here
For more information about the forum, click here

Commission approves prolongation of Hungarian bank support scheme until 30 June 2013
The European Commission has authorised, under EU state aid rules, the prolongation of a Hungarian aid scheme for banks until 30 June 2013. The scheme covers recapitalisation measures in favour of banks operating in Hungary. All conditions of the original scheme, as last prolonged on 30 July 2012 (see EXME/12/30.07), remain unchanged.
Midday Express of 1 March 2013

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New legislation

OJ C 58 of 28.02.2013, p. 2 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv hu mt nl pt ro sk sl fi sv

Draft legislation and public consultations

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<td>Consultation on the paper of the services of DG Competition containing draft guidelines on regional State aid for 2014-2020</td>
<td>11.03.2013</td>
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<td>Explanatory note</td>
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<td>Consultation on the State aid instruments in the agricultural sector</td>
<td>20.03.2013</td>
<td>DG Agriculture</td>
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All public consultations:  DG Competition  
DG Agriculture  
DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Decisions to open formal investigation

1. Decisions taken by the Commission

- none -

2. Decisions pending OJ publication

Click here to see the full list
### 3. Decisions published in the OJ from 28.01.2013 to 28.02.2013 – 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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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title/link to documents</th>
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| Austria | NEW Restructuring aid for Hypo Group Alpe Adria  
Partly decision to extend proceedings, partly positive decision  
OJ C 59 of 28.02.2013, p. 34  
Press release  
| Slovakia | Construction and operation of public intermodal transport terminals  
OJ C 45 of 16.02.2013, p. 13  
Deadline for comments*: 18.03.2013 | SA.34369 | Sectoral development aid | 23.01.2013 |
| Hungary | The use and application of Research and Technological Innovation Fund – Aid granted to ValDeal  
OJ C 40 of 12.02.2013, p. 53  
| Italy | Aeroporto di Alghero  
Decision to extend proceedings  
OJ C 40 of 12.02.2013, p. 15  
Press release  

### Final Commission decisions

#### 1. Decisions taken by the Commission

**1.1. Decisions to close formal investigation**

- none -

**1.2. No objection decisions**

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| Hungary | Prolongation of the Hungarian bank support scheme  
Midday Express of 01.03.2013 | SA.36088 | Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy | 01.03.2013 |

#### 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.*

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<th>Title/link to documents*</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Austria</td>
<td>Austrian federal broadband scheme</td>
<td>SA.35884</td>
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<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>Finland</td>
<td>High-speed Broadband Construction Aid in Sparsely Populated Areas of Finland</td>
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<td>Sectoral development aid</td>
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<td>SA.34832</td>
<td>Compensation of damages caused by natural disaster</td>
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### Other types of decisions

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Block exemptions

Block exemption Information sheets published in the OJ and/or in the State aid register between 21.02.2013 and 28.02.2013

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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<td>Ellinika Nafpigeia v Commission</td>
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<td>T-391/08 Ellinika Nafpigeia AE v European Commission. SA.15526 Hellenic Shipyards C 16/04 (ex NN 29/04, CP 71/02 et CP 133/05)</td>
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2. General Court

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<th>Parties</th>
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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

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<td>Appropriate measures (Article 18) - Kippermoen Leisure Centre (KLC)</td>
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<tr>
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Public versions of decisions made available

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2. EFTA Court
- none -

3. State Aid New Legislation
- none -

4. Other EEA points of interest


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Additional points of interest

Events

Financial services: Workshop on co(re)insurance pools and on ad-hoc co(re)insurance agreements on the subscription market
Brussels, 12 March 2013
Deadline: 4 March 2013. Number of places is limited!
Registration

Services of General Economic Interest and State Aid
EIPA
Maastricht, 15-16 April 2013
For further information, click here

Studies and reports

January 2013
Euro area annual inflation down to 2.0%
EU down to 2.1%
Euro area annual inflation was 2.0% in January 2013, down from 2.2% in December 2012. A year earlier the rate was 2.7%. Monthly inflation was -1.0% in January 2013.
EU annual inflation was 2.1% in January 2013, down from 2.3% in December 2012. A year earlier the rate was 2.9%. Monthly inflation was -0.8% in January 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 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv

Read more

Council of the European Union

Irish Presidency reaches breakthrough on new rules for stronger EU banks
The Irish Presidency has tonight reached a breakthrough in talks with the European Parliament on an overhaul of banking rules increasing EU financial stability.

Read more

Miscellanea

Guidelines on financial incentives: Promoting energy efficient vehicles
The European Commission published today new guidelines on how Member States should use financial incentives to best increase demand for low CO2 emission vehicles. Currently, rules on financial incentives differ across the EU, but a common framework could help facilitate the assembly of larger quantities of such vehicles, prompting lower prices for consumers. Incentives can be useful instruments to foster the low CO2 producing vehicle industry, but they can also create trade distortions. To address this issue, mandatory principles under the guidelines include non-discrimination with regard to the origin of the vehicle, the respect of EU state aid and procurement rules, and building on best practices in this domain. Member States must consider these principles in order not to violate the EU Treaty provisions, while other principles are recommended.

Read more

Agreement with EIB for breakthrough of Key Enabling Technologies
At the inaugural meeting of the High Level Group on Key Enabling Technologies, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the European Commission and the European Investment Bank that will pave the way for improved access to finance for investments in key enabling technologies. KETs – nanotechnology, micro-/nanoelectronics, industrial biotechnology, advanced materials, photonics and advanced manufacturing technologies – are of exceptional importance for shaping the future innovation and competitiveness of the EU. The global market in KETs is forecast to grow from about EUR 650 billion in 2008 to over one trillion euro in 2015. World leading industries in fields of automotive, chemicals, aeronautics, space, health and energy are all users of KETs. To ensure the EU can fully participate in this growth and indeed continue its leading position, a new High-Level Group on KETs was launched today to assist the Commission in the implementation of the European strategy to boost the industrial production of KETs-based products in Europe.

Read more

Next publication date: Friday 08.03.2013

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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