Highlights

Commission adopts de minimis Regulation for services of general economic interest (SGEI)
The European Commission has adopted a Regulation that exempts from EU state aid rules aid of up to € 500 000 per company over a three-year period that is granted as compensation for the provision of services of general economic interest (SGEI). Compensation of this magnitude is deemed unproblematic because it is too low to have any impact on trade and competition. This is the last pillar of a new package of state aid rules for SGEI, the bulk of which has been adopted in December 2011 (see IP/11/1571 and MEMO/11/929).

Read more
OJ L 114 of 26.04.2012, p. 8

In this issue:

- Draft legislation and public consultations
  - Assessing State aid for films and other audiovisual works
  - Consultation on review of the Community guidelines on state aid to maritime transport

- Simplified Procedure: notification summaries
  - Invitation to comment on simplified procedure cases
  - Country | Title | Case number | Publication date
  - Italy | Lazio regional film support scheme | SA.34030 | 27.04.2012

- 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 04.04.2012 to 04.05.2012 – 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Tax exemption and reduction for water users</td>
<td>SA.32874</td>
<td></td>
<td>21.03.2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OJ C 114 of 19.04.2012, p. 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Press release</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deadline for comments*: 21.05.2012</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Press release</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>La Rochelle Airport</td>
<td>SA.26494</td>
<td></td>
<td>08.02.2012</td>
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<td></td>
<td>OJ C 130 of 04.05.2012, p. 10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Additional aid measures to the Latvian Mortgage and Land Bank</td>
<td>SA.30704</td>
<td>Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy</td>
<td>26.01.2012</td>
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<td>OJ C 130 of 04.05.2012, p. 42</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
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<td>SA.33114</td>
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<td></td>
<td>OJ C 129 of 04.05.2012, p. 9</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Commission decisions

1. Decisions taken by the Commission

1.1. Decisions to close formal investigation
- none -

1.2. No objection decisions
- none -

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.
### DG Competition cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Denmark - guarantees for merging banks</td>
<td>SA.34227</td>
<td>Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy</td>
<td>17.02.2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Aide à caractère social pour les dessertes maritimes exploitées entre la Guadeloupe et les îles</td>
<td>SA.33966</td>
<td>Social support to individual consumers</td>
<td>20.04.2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Aid to firms hiring persons held in detention</td>
<td>SA.33608</td>
<td>Employment aid</td>
<td>11.01.2012</td>
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### DG Agriculture cases

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Modification du régime &quot;Aide à la mise aux normes des bâtiments porcins en vue de l'application des normes sur le bien-être des truies gestantes&quot;</td>
<td>SA.34401</td>
<td>Investment in agricultural holdings</td>
<td>30.03.2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Aide de la région Ile de France en faveur de l'agriculture biologique pour la préservation des ressources naturelles d'Ile-de-France</td>
<td>SA.33748</td>
<td>Agri-environmental commitments</td>
<td>30.03.2012</td>
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</table>

### Block exemptions

Block exemption Information sheets published in the OJ and/or in the State Aid register between 26.04.2012 and 03.05.2012

### 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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<tr>
<th>Decision to open formal investigation – formal comments period running</th>
<th>Case number</th>
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<td>* 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.</td>
<td>70848 (Dec 393/11/COL)</td>
<td></td>
<td>14.12.2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Decisions published in the OJ

#### Norway

Sale of Narvik municipality’s entitlement to concession power to Narvik Energi AS (‘NEAS’)

NO, IS

Deadline for comments: 29.05. 2012

Decision to open formal investigation

OJ C 121 of 26.04.2012, p. 25

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<thead>
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<td></td>
<td>14.12.2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2. EFTA Court

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3. State Aid New Legislation

- none -

4. Other EEA points of interest

- none -

Additional points of interest

Events

State Aid in the Transport Sector
EIPA
Maastricht, 31 May-1 June 2012
For further information, click here

10th Experts' Forum on New Developments in European State Aid Law, Brussels
European State aid Law Institute (ESTALI)
Brussels, 6-8 June 2012
For further information, click here

Recent Developments in State Aid Issues of Concern to Regional and Local Authorities
EIPA
Maastricht, 9-10 July 2012
For further information, click here

Invitations to tender

State Aid rules - Training of National Judges - Deadline extended!
The deadline for the Call for Proposals on Training of National judges in EU Competition Law and Judicial Cooperation has been extended until the 31st of May 2012. One of the actions provided for by the Decision concerns training for national judges in European competition law, including state aid rules and private enforcement.
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.
The Call and useful information have been published on the following website:

Miscellanea

Integrating payments in the EU: A new approach Conference on Card, Internet and Mobile Payments
Joaquin Almunia, Vice President of the European Commission responsible for Competition Policy
Brussels, 4 May 2012
To read the speech, click here

Next publication date: Friday 11.05.2012

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/)

**Publisher:**
European Commission  
DG Competition  
Unit H-3 – State aid network, Transparency and Fiscal aid  
Chief Editor: Monique Negenman  
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