State Aid Weekly e-News

No. 30/13
6 September 2013
Covers the period from 30 August to 5 September

Highlights

Commission approves plan to orderly wind down Hypo Group Alpe Adria
The European Commission has approved a plan to orderly wind down the Austrian bank Hypo Group Alpe Adria (HGAA). The Commission found that the plan presented by the Austrian authorities is compatible with EU state aid rules. Together with the approval of the plan, the Commission cleared both the aid hitherto granted to HGAA and additional aid possibly required for the wind-down.
Read more

Commission approves restructuring aid for Banco Comercial Português (BCP) Group
The European Commission has approved the restructuring plan of Banco Comercial Português (BCP) Group, following an agreement reached with the Portuguese authorities in July (see IP/13/738). The Commission concluded that the restructuring plan was in line with EU state aid rules.
Midday Express – 2 September 2013

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.
To see the full list, click here

In this issue:
• Draft legislation and public consultations >>
• Simplified Procedure: notification summaries >>
• Decisions to open formal investigation >>
• Final Commission decisions >>
• Court of Justice of the European Union >>
• European Economic Area >>
• Additional points of interest >>

Draft legislation and public consultations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Deadlines for comments</th>
<th>Further information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State aid to airports and airlines</td>
<td>25.09.2013</td>
<td>DG Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation on the draft Union guidelines on State aid to promote risk finance investments</td>
<td>18.09.2013</td>
<td>DG Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation on additional categories for a revised draft General Block Exemption Regulation on state aid measures (‘GBER II’)</td>
<td>10.09.2013</td>
<td>DG Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation on the second draft of the new de minimis Regulation replacing Regulation No 1998/2006</td>
<td>09.09.2013</td>
<td>DG Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitation to submit comments on the draft Commission Regulation on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid</td>
<td>09.09.2013</td>
<td>DG Competition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OJ C 229 of 08.08.2013, p. 1 bg es cs da de et el en fr hr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv
**Invitation to submit comments on the draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 as regards its period of application**

OJ C 227 of 06.08.2013, p. 1 bg es cs da de et el en fr hr it lv hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv

**Invitation to submit comments on the draft Commission Regulation on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid in the agriculture sector**

OJ C 227 of 06.08.2013, p. 3 bg es cs da de et el en fr hr it lv hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv

06.09.2013 DG Agriculture

All public consultations:  
DG Competition  
DG Agriculture  
DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

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### 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Case number</th>
<th>Publication date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Multiplier Giftenaftrek</td>
<td>SA.37097</td>
<td>29.08.2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Airline Accounting Center Sp. z o.o.</td>
<td>SA.37078</td>
<td>28.08.2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### 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 05.08.2013 to 05.09.2013 – 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.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title/link to documents</th>
<th>Case number</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Decision date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DG Competition cases</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Setting up the Gdynia-Kosakowo Airport</td>
<td>SA.35388</td>
<td>Sectoral development aid</td>
<td>02.07.2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Aid granted to CHP plants and an electricity supplier which affect the market for regulating power</td>
<td>SA.32669</td>
<td>Electricity security</td>
<td>05.06.2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OJ C 230 of 08.08.2013, p. 23 bg es cs da de et el en fr hr it lv hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv</td>
<td>Press release</td>
<td>Deadline for comments*: 09.09.2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Final Commission decisions

1. Decisions taken by the Commission

1.1. Decisions to close formal investigation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Case number</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Decision date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Restructuring aid for Hypo Group Alpe Adria positive decision</td>
<td>SA.32554</td>
<td>Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy</td>
<td>03.09.2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.2. No objection decisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title/link to documents*</th>
<th>Case number</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Decision date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Broadband network project in the Cieszyn powiat</td>
<td>SA.34708</td>
<td>Sectoral development aid</td>
<td>02.09.2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Restructuring of Banco Comercial Português (BCP) Group Midday Express – 2 September 2013</td>
<td>SA.34724</td>
<td>Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy</td>
<td>30.08.2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<th>Case number</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Decision date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>Aid Type</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Prolongation of the Danish bank support schemes – H2 2013</td>
<td>SA.36811</td>
<td>Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy</td>
<td>11.07.2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Financing of Airport infrastructure investments at Memmingen Airport (2013 - 2017)</td>
<td>SA.36377</td>
<td>Regional development aid</td>
<td>05.06.2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>EXTENSION OF PIRAEUS PORT</td>
<td>SA.35418</td>
<td>Regional development aid</td>
<td>02.07.2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Regulation for the support for construction or reconstruction of industrial premises</td>
<td>SA.36064</td>
<td>Regional development aid</td>
<td>29.07.2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Modification of the aid to promote cultural heritage conservation in salt mine of Wieliczka (ex NN 66.2010)</td>
<td>SA.36222</td>
<td>Heritage conservation</td>
<td>08.07.2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Modification of the aid to promote cultural heritage conservation in salt mine of Bochnia (ex NN 67.2010)</td>
<td>SA.36221</td>
<td>Heritage conservation</td>
<td>08.07.2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Operação de venda da ANA - Aeroportos de Portugal, S.A. (Privatisation of ANA - Airports of Portugal)</td>
<td>SA.36197</td>
<td>No aid</td>
<td>19.06.2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Amendment of the Restructuring of CEISS through integration with Unicaja Banco</td>
<td>SA.36249</td>
<td>Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy</td>
<td>25.07.2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Extension of high speed broadband in Spain</td>
<td>SA.35834</td>
<td>Sectoral development aid</td>
<td>05.07.2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Court of Justice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Court case*</th>
<th>Parties</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Type of act</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Related case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C-303/13 P</td>
<td>Commission v Andersen</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Appeal</td>
<td>03.06.2013</td>
<td>T-92/11 - Jørgen Andersen v European Commission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. General Court

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Court case*</th>
<th>Parties</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Type of act</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Related case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T-338/13</td>
<td>Energa Power Trading v Commission</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>21.06.2013</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title/link to documents*</th>
<th>Case number</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Decision date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Iceland | Investment Incentives Scheme and certain Investment Agreements  
**Decision 177/13/COL**  
OJ C 237 of 15.08.2013, p. 4  
Press release  
**Deadline for comments***: 16.09.2013 | 73641 | Regional aid | 30.04.2013 |
Iceland

Harp Concert Hall and Conference Center

*Decision 128/13/COL*
OJ C 229 of 08.08.2013, p. 18 bg cs da de et fr hr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv
Press release
Deadline for comments*: 09.09.2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iceland</th>
<th>Harpa Concert Hall and Conference Center</th>
<th>70520</th>
<th>Culture aid</th>
<th>20.03.2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Norway

Potential aid to the Nasjonal digital læringssarena (NDLA)

*Decision 136/13/COL*
OJ C 229 of 08.08.2013, p. 31 bg cs da de et el en fr hr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv
Press release
Deadline for comments*: 09.09.2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Norway</th>
<th>Potential aid to the Nasjonal digital læringssarena (NDLA)</th>
<th>73132</th>
<th>Educational aid</th>
<th>27.03.2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Public versions of decisions made available

Norway

Aid to Elkem AS for an energy recovery system

*Decision 304/13/COL*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Norway</th>
<th>Aid to Elkem AS for an energy recovery system</th>
<th>73917</th>
<th>Environmental aid</th>
<th>10.07.2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Norway

Charter fund scheme for Northern Norway

*Decision 303/13/COL*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Norway</th>
<th>Charter fund scheme for Northern Norway</th>
<th>72127</th>
<th>Regional development aid</th>
<th>10.07.2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**2. EFTA Court**

- none -

**3. State Aid New Legislation**

- none -

**4. Other EEA points of interest**

- none -

Additional points of interest

**Events**

Advanced State Aid Seminar
EIPA
Maastricht, 30 September – 1 October 2013
For further information, click here

State Aid: Energy and Environment - Review of Critical Issues
EIPA
Maastricht, 8 - 9 October 2013
For further information, click here

State Aid in the European Union: Latest Developments in Policy and Practice
EIPA
Maastricht, 21 - 22 October 2013
For further information, click here

**Studies and reports**

Second estimate for the second quarter of 2013
Euro area GDP up by 0.3% and EU27 up by 0.4%
-0.5% and 0.0% respectively compared with the second quarter of 2012
GDP rose by 0.3% in the euro area (EA17) and by 0.4% in the EU27 during the second quarter of 2013, compared with the previous quarter, according to second estimates published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In the first quarter of 2013, growth rates were -0.2% and -0.1% respectively. Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, seasonally adjusted GDP fell by 0.5% in the euro area and remained stable in the EU27 in the second quarter of 2013, after -1.0% and -0.7% respectively in the previous quarter.
During the second quarter of 2013, GDP in the United States grew by 0.6% compared with the previous quarter (after +0.3% in the first quarter of 2013). Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, GDP rose by 1.6% (after +1.3% in the previous quarter).

**Flash estimate - August 2013**

**Euro area annual inflation down to 1.3%**

Euro area annual inflation is expected to be 1.3% in August 2013, down from 1.6% in July, according to a flash estimate from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

Looking at the main components of euro area inflation, food, alcohol & tobacco is expected to have the highest annual rate in August (3.3%, compared with 3.5% in July), followed by services (1.5%, compared with 1.4% in July), non-energy industrial goods (0.3%, compared with 0.4% in July), and energy (-0.4%, compared with 1.6% in July).

**Invitations to tender**

- none -

**Council of the European Union**

- none -

**Miscellanea**

**EU and Serbia: enhanced cooperation rules enter into force**

Serbia is making one more step forward on its way to the EU membership. On 1 September the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) between the European Union and Serbia enters into force, bringing concrete benefits in trade relations and advancing the accession process in general. Serbia has already built a positive track record in implementing obligations of the SAA through smooth implementation of the Interim Agreement on trade and trade related matters, an important parameter considered when taking the decision to open accession negotiations in June.

**Next publication date: Friday 13.09.2013**

**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

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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