Highlights

Opening a Path for Recovery: Competition in Financial Markets
Joaquín ALMUNIA, Vice President of the European Commission responsible for Competition Policy
University College London
London, 6 February 2014
To read the full speech, click here

Commission authorises investment aid for "energy from waste" gasification plant in Lahti, Finland
The European Commission has concluded that Finnish plans to grant Lahti Energia €14.725 million of investment aid for a gasification plant are in line with EU State aid rules. The Commission found in particular that the aid will further EU energy and environmental goals without unduly distorting competition in the Single Market.
Read more

Commission opens in-depth investigation into restructuring aid for Cyprus Airways
The European Commission has opened an in-depth investigation to verify whether Cyprus’ plans to support the restructuring of Cyprus Airways with €102 million are in line with EU state aid rules. The Commission will investigate in particular whether the restructuring plan is suitable to make Cyprus Airways viable without continued state support and to offset the competition distortions created by the state aid. The opening of an in-depth investigation gives interested third parties an opportunity to comment on the measures under assessment; it does not prejudge the outcome of the investigation.
Read more

Commission opens in-depth investigation into restructuring aid for Estonian Air
The European Commission has opened an in-depth investigation to verify whether the plans of Estonia to grant €40.7 million state aid for the restructuring of the national flag carrier Estonian Air is in line with EU state aid rules. The Commission will in particular assess whether the airline’s restructuring plan is suitable to restore the company’s long term viability and to offset the distortions of competition created by the state support. The opening of an in-depth investigation gives interested third parties an opportunity to comment on the measures under assessment; it does not prejudge the outcome of the investigation.
Read more

Commission approves regional aid map 2014-2020 for Czech Republic
The European Commission has approved the map of Czech Republic for granting state aid between 2014 and 2020 regional aid within the framework of the Commission’s new regional aid guidelines adopted by the Commission in June 2013 (see IP/13/569). The new guidelines set out under which conditions Member States can grant state aid to businesses for regional development purposes. They aim to foster growth and promote greater cohesion in the Single Market.
Read more

Commission approves prolongation of Polish bank guarantee scheme?
The European Commission has authorised, under EU state aid rules, a prolongation of the Polish bank guarantee scheme until 30 June 2014. The scheme covers guarantees and other liquidity support measures in favour of different types of solvent credit institutions in Poland.
Midday Express - 3 February 2014

In this issue:

- Draft legislation and public consultations >>
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Draft legislation and public consultations

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Draft Communication on State aid to promote important projects of common European interest 28.02.2014 DG Competition
Consultation on the draft Union Framework for State aid for Research, Development and Innovation 17.02.2014 DG Competition
Consultation on a draft General Block Exemption Regulation (the GBER) on state aid measures 12.02.2014 DG Competition
Consultation on the Commission services first draft of the new de minimis Regulation replacing Regulation No 875/2007 21.02.2014 DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

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

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

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Decisions to open formal investigation

1. Decisions taken by the Commission

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<td>Restructuring aid</td>
<td>05.02.2014</td>
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<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Restructuring aid to Estonian Air Press release</td>
<td>SA.36868</td>
<td>Restructuring aid</td>
<td>05.02.2014</td>
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2. Decisions pending OJ publication

Click here to see the full list

3. Decisions published in the OJ from 06.01.2014 to 07.02.2014 – 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>
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### Germany
- **Reduction of the EEG-surcharge for energy intensive users and support of RES electricity**
  - OJ C 37 of 07.02.2014, p. 73
  - **Decision**: SA.33995
  - **Deadline for comments**: 07.03.2014

### Poland
- **Restructuring aid for LOT Polish Airlines S.A.**
  - OJ C 37 of 07.02.2014, p. 55
  - **Decision**: SA.36874
  - **Deadline for comments**: 07.03.2014

### Spain
- **Tax exemption for biofuels**
  - OJ C 37 of 07.02.2014, p. 44
  - **Decision**: SA.18042 (ex NN 61/2004)
  - **Deadline for comments**: 07.03.2014

### United Kingdom
- **Enterprise capital funds**
  - OJ C 37 of 07.02.2014, p. 50
  - **Decision**: SA.15373 (C 18/2013, ex N 566/2003)
  - **Deadline for comments**: 07.03.2014

### DG Agriculture cases
- **Milk Fat Law**
  - OJ C 7 of 10.01.2014, p. 8
  - **Decision**: SA.35484
  - **Deadline for comments**: 10.02.2014

### Final Commission decisions

#### 1. Decisions taken by the Commission

##### 1.1. Decisions to close formal investigation

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<td>Poland</td>
<td>Setting up the Gdynia-Kosakowo Airport <em>Negative decision with recovery</em></td>
<td><strong>SA.35388</strong></td>
<td>Sectoral development aid</td>
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##### 1.2. No objection decisions

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<td>Prolongation of a R&amp;R scheme for SMEs in Burgenland</td>
<td><strong>SA.38117</strong></td>
<td>Rescue aid</td>
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<td>Austria</td>
<td>Prolongation of N 85/2008 – Guarantee scheme for SME in the region of Salzburg</td>
<td><strong>SA.38080</strong></td>
<td>Restructuring aid</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Régime d’aides en faveur des modes de transport alternatif à la route pour la période 2014-2020</td>
<td>SA.37293</td>
<td>Sectoral development aid</td>
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<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Municipal aid to art house cinemas</td>
<td>SA.37412</td>
<td>Culture aid</td>
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<td>Estonia</td>
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<td>Finland</td>
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<td>SA.35046</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
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<td>SA.38031</td>
<td>Social support to individual consumers</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
<td>Ninth prolongation of Polish bank guarantee scheme Midday Express - 3 February 2014</td>
<td>SA.38023</td>
<td>Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
<td>High-speed broadband in Portugal – prolongation</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
<td>Gaitec Programme - R&amp;D&amp;I</td>
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<td>Aid scheme to R&amp;D&amp;I - La Rioja</td>
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<td>Prolongation of All-Island Collaborative R&amp;D Scheme (Innova) (N 765/2007)</td>
<td>SA.37908</td>
<td>R&amp;D aid</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Scottish Research &amp; Development &amp; Innovation Scheme (2008-2013)</td>
<td>SA.37841</td>
<td>R&amp;D aid</td>
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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".

- none -

3. **Decisions published in the OJ**

3.1. **Decisions to close formal investigation**

- none -

3.2. **No objection decisions**
**Block exemptions**

Block exemption Information sheets published in the OJ and/or in the State Aid register between 31.01.2014 and 06.02.2014

**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.

1. **Court of Justice**

- none-

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**

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2. **EFTA Court**

- none -

3. **Block exemptions**

- none -

4. **State Aid New Legislation**

- none -

5. **Other EEA points of interest**

- none -

**Additional points of interest**

**Events**
Studies and reports

Eurostat: Third quarter of 2013
Seasonally adjusted government deficit down to 3.1% of GDP in the euro area.
Deficit nearly stable at 3.5% of GDP in the EU28
In the third quarter of 2013, the seasonally adjusted general government deficit to GDP ratio stood at 3.1% in the euro area (EA17), down from 3.3% in the second quarter of 2013. In the EU28 the deficit to GDP ratio remained nearly stable at 3.5%.
Read more

Invitations to tender

- none -

Council of the European Union

- none -

Miscellanea

Lautenschläger: no strong bank supervision without single bank resolution system
The new bank EU supervisory structure will do away with “biased national practices”, but the system for dealing with troubled banks must be ambitious, too. "Banking union needs two legs to be strong", said European Central Bank Executive Board member Sabine Lautenschläger told the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee on Monday, as she presented her credentials to become Vice-Chair of the ECB-led EU bank supervisor.
Read more

Future of Europe debate: Commissioner Hedegaard talks with citizens in Copenhagen
The future of Europe, climate action and strengthening citizen involvement in EU affairs are among the topics to be discussed with Connie Hedegaard, Commissioner for Climate Action, at the 43rd Citizens' Dialogue. The Dialogue involves 400 citizens and took place in Copenhagen on 6 February 2014.
Read more

Next publication date: Friday 14.02.2014

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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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