Highlights

Reforming EU State aid rules on public services: The way forward
Joaquín Almunia, Vice President of the European Commission responsible for Competition Policy
EPC policy Dialogue, Brussels
Brussels, 2 May 2011
To read the full speech, click here

In the issue:
- 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 >>

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>Revision of the Guidelines on public funding to broadband networks</td>
<td>31.08.2011</td>
<td>DG Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of the Community guidelines on financing of airports and start-up aid to airlines departing from regional airports</td>
<td>07.06.2011</td>
<td>DG Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The future Commission Guidelines for State aid in the context of the amended EU Emissions Trading Scheme</td>
<td>11.05.2011</td>
<td>DG Competition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 05.04.2011 to 05.05.2011 – 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>Germany</td>
<td>Aid to non-ferrous metals producers for CO2 costs of electricity</td>
<td>C 33/2010 (ex N 700/2009)</td>
<td>Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy</td>
<td>17.11.2010</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OJ C 111 of 09.04.2011, p. 22 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv Press release</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Deadline for comments*: 10.05.2011</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Short-term export-credit insurance</td>
<td>C 28/2010 (ex NN 19/2010)</td>
<td>Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy</td>
<td>27.10.2010</td>
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<td>OJ C 111 of 09.04.2011, p. 46 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv Press release</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Deadline for comments*: 10.05.2011</td>
<td></td>
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</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".

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title/link to documents</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negative decision with recovery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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>
<th>Title/link to documents*</th>
<th>Case number</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Decision date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Danish radio channel FM4 OJ C 131 of 03.05.2011, p. 2 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv Press release</td>
<td>SA.32019</td>
<td>Services of general economic interest</td>
<td>23.03.2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Green Labs DK OJ C 131 of 03.05.2011, p. 1 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv</td>
<td>N 301/2010</td>
<td>R&amp;D aid</td>
<td>21.03.2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Digital decoders for persons with visual disabilities in Spain OJ C 131 of 03.05.2011, p. 2 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv</td>
<td>SA.31982</td>
<td>Social support to individual consumers</td>
<td>14.03.2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Block exemptions

Block exemption Information sheets published in the OJ and/or in the State aid register between 28.04.2011 and 05.05.2011

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

<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-305/09</td>
<td>Commission v Italy</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Judgment</td>
<td>05.05.2011</td>
<td>C 12/2004 - Fiscal incentives to outward FDIs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. General Court
### 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>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Aid to Midtfjellet Vindkraft AS for the Midtfjellet wind park</td>
<td>69352</td>
<td>Environmental aid</td>
<td>06.04.2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec 110/11/COL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Investment aid to Notodden airport, Tuven</td>
<td>68962</td>
<td>Airport aid</td>
<td>29.03.2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec 96/11/COL</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### 2. EFTA Court

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Court case*</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-6/11</td>
<td>VTM Fund-management AG vs the EFTA Surveillance Authority</td>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td>Application for annulment</td>
<td>09.03.2011</td>
<td>Decision No 416/10/COL, Taxation of investment undertakings under the Liechtenstein Tax Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-6/11</td>
<td>OJ C 135 of 05.05.2011, p. 13 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv hu mt nl el et ro sk sl fi sv</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### 3. State Aid New Legislation

EFTA Surveillance Authority Decision amending, for the seventy-first time, the procedural and substantive rules in the field of state aid by introducing a new chapter on enforcement of state aid law by national courts
4. Other EEA points of interest

- none -

Additional points of interest

Events

9th Experts’ Forum on New Developments in European State Aid Law
Agenda of the conference: The New Rules on SGEI; The New Rules for Rescue & Restructuring – the Revision of the Restructuring; Guidelines for Banks and the Overhaul of the General Framework; Jurisprudence (Selectivity); The Case of Dutch NOx; The Private Enforcement of State Aid Rules before National Courts – The Recent; Rulings of the German Bundesgerichtshof.
For further information, click here

Studies and reports

April 2011: Business Climate Indicator down in the euro area
The Business Climate Indicator (BCI) for the euro area fell in April 2011 for the second month in a row. Despite this, the current level of the indicator remains close to historic peaks, suggesting that the recovery in industry will continue in the coming months. The drop in the BCI reflects worsening assessments of production trends observed in recent months, and of production expectations, which declined sharply. Appraisal of stocks rebounded slightly from historic lows. These negative developments were not offset by the slight improvement in managers’ assessment of overall order books and export order books.
Read more

April 2011: Economic sentiment declines in both the EU and the euro area
The Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI) for the EU and the euro area declined in April, but remains well above its long-term average. It fell significantly by 2.3 points to 105.1 in the EU and more moderately by 1.1 points to 106.2 in the euro area, marking the second decline in a row in that region. In both regions, the fall in the ESI stemmed from a decline in confidence in all sectors except construction, where sentiment improved from low level on the back of more favourable weather conditions. The more negative readings of the ESI in the EU reflect a sharp drop in the UK, especially in the services and retail sectors.
Read more

March 2011: Euro area unemployment rate at 9.9%, EU27 at 9.5%
The euro area (EA17) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 9.9% in March 2011, unchanged compared with February. It was 10.1% in March 2010. The EU27 unemployment rate was 9.5% in March 2011, also unchanged compared with February. It was 9.7% in March 2010. Eurostat estimates that 22.828 million men and women in the EU27, of whom 15.596 million were in the euro area, were unemployed in March 2011. Compared with February 2011, the number of persons unemployed fell by 10 000 in the EU27 and by 9 000 in the euro area. Compared with March 2010, unemployment decreased by 291 000 in the EU27 and by 260 000 in the euro area.
Read more

Flash estimate - April 2011: Euro area inflation estimated at 2.8%
Euro area annual inflation is expected to be 2.8% in April 2011 according to a flash estimate issued by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. It was 2.7% in March.
Next publication date: Friday 13.05.2011

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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