Highlights

**Competition policy for innovation and growth: Keeping markets open and efficient**
Joaquín Almunia Vice President of the European Commission responsible for Competition Policy
European Competition and Consumer Day
Copenhagen, 8 March 2012
To read the full speech, click here

**The General Court annuls in part the Commission decision concerning various forms of aid granted to ING on account of the financial crisis**
The Commission has not established in the present case that the amendment to the repayment terms for a capital injection constitutes an advantage which a private investor in the same situation would not have granted
ING Groep NV (ING), established in Amsterdam (Netherlands), provides banking, investment, life assurance and asset management services to more than 85 million customers in more than 40 countries. With around 125 000 staff and a consolidated balance sheet of €1 332 billion at the end of 2008, ING is one of the largest financial institutions in the world.
Read more

**Commission approves reactivation of the German rescue scheme for financial institutions**
The European Commission has authorised, under EU state aid rules, a prolongation of the German rescue scheme for financial institutions until 30 June 2012.
Midday Express, 5 March 2012

**Commission approves extension of Hungarian bank support scheme for credit institutions**
The European Commission has authorised, under EU state aid rules, an extension until 30 June 2012 of a Hungarian bank support scheme for credit institutions.
Midday Express, 8 March 2012

**Commission approves extension of Hungarian liquidity scheme for credit institutions**
The European Commission has authorised, under EU state aid rules, an extension until 30 June 2012 of a Hungarian liquidity scheme for credit institutions.
Midday Express, 7 March 2012

**Commission approves extension of Lithuanian aid scheme for banks**
The European Commission has authorised, under EU state aid rules, an extension of a Lithuanian aid scheme Continue on page 2

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for banks until 30 June 2012. The scheme covers guarantees, asset relief and recapitalisation measures in favour of banks operating in Lithuania.

Midday Express, 6 March 2012

Commission authorises France and Italy to grant aid to Eurocopter and Agusta Westland for the development of a new generation of civil helicopters

Brussels, 7 March 2012 – The European Commission has authorised France and Italy to grant aid for research and development (R&D) to two European helicopter manufacturers (Eurocopter in France and Agusta Westland in Italy) for the development of new, innovative, medium-weight aircraft. The Commission has decided that these measures are compatible with the EU rules on state aid, particularly as the planned public funding is justified, proportionate and without risk for competition.

Read more

Draft legislation and public consultations

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<td>14.05.2012</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 08.02.2012 to 08.03.2012 – 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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### Malta
- **Air Malta plc.**
  - Press release
  - Deadline for comments*: 21.03.2012
  - **Case number**: SA.33015
  - **Objective**: Restructuring aid
  - **Decision date**: 25.01.2012

### Austria
- **Restructuring of Österreichische Volksbanken AG**
  - OJ C 46 of 17.02.2012, p. 3
  - Press release
  - Deadline for comments*: 19.03.2012
  - **Case number**: AS.31883 (ex N 516/2010)
  - **Objective**: Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy
  - **Decision date**: 09.12.2011

### Belgium
- **Dexia Banque Belgique**
  - Press release
  - Deadline for comments*: 12.03.2012
  - **Case number**: SA.33751
  - **Objective**: Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy
  - **Decision date**: 17.10.2011

### DG Agriculture cases
- **France**
  - **NEW** L'accord interprofessionnel conclu dans le cadre de l'Association française pour la valorisation des produits et des secteurs professionnels de l'horticulture et du paysage
  - OJ C 66 of 06.03.2012, p. 32
  - Press release
  - Deadline for comments*: 10.04.2012
  - **Case number**: SA.23257 (ex NN 8/2010, ex CP 157/2007)
  - **Decision date**: 11.01.2012

## 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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<tr>
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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".

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title</th>
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| Germany | ERP-Unternehmenkapital- ERP-Kapital für Gründung
Partly no objection decision, partly no aid | N 688/2009 | SME aid | 07.03.2012 |
| France | Avance remboursable pour le développement de l'hélicoptère X4
Press release | SA.33467 | R&D aid | 07.03.2012 |
| France | Fonds pour l'"innovation audiovisuelle - volet développement
Press release | SA.33490 | Culture aid | 02.03.2012 |
| Hungary | Prolongation of Hungarian Liquidity scheme for banks
Press release | SA.34078 | Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy | 07.03.2012 |
| Hungary | Extention of the Hungarian bank support scheme
Press release | SA.34077 | Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy | 08.03.2012 |
| Italy | Aiuto alla RSI ad AgustaWestland SpA - Nuovo modello elicottero da trasporto light intermediate AW169
Press release | SA.33731 | R&D aid | 07.03.2012 |
| Lithuania | Extension of Lithuanian schemes in support to bank – H1 2012
Press release | SA.34288 | Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy | 06.03.2012 |

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<td>SA.33627</td>
<td>Forestry</td>
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3. Decisions published in the OJ

3.1. Decisions to close formal investigation
### 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>Country</th>
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<td>SABCA. Aide individuelle R&amp;D. Secteur Aéronautique. OJ C 70 of 08.03.2012, p. 2</td>
<td>N 414/2010</td>
<td>R&amp;D aid</td>
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<td>Befreiung von der Luftverkehrsteuer hinsichtlich Abflügen von Inselbewohnern und in anderen Fällen</td>
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<td>Social support to individual consumers</td>
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<td>Ograniczona kwota pomocy zgodna ze wspólnym rynkiem udzielana w ramach Programu Operacyjnego Kapitał Ludzki</td>
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<td>Financial assistance to be granted to Banco de Valencia</td>
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<td>Compensation fund for farmers that have suffered from GMO-admixture above the community norms for labelling</td>
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**Other types of decisions**
### DG Competition cases

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### Block exemptions

Block exemption Information sheets published in the OJ and/or in the State Aid register between 01.03.2012 and 08.03.2012

### 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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#### 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

- none -

2. EFTA Court

- none -

3. State Aid New Legislation

- none -

4. Other EEA points of interest

- none -

Additional points of interest

Events

State Aid in the European Union: Latest Development on Policy and Practice and Introductory Workshop
EIPA
Maastricht, 12-14 March 2012
For further information, click here

Tax measures as State aid - The aftermath of the Gibraltar case
ERA
Brussels, 22 March 2012
For further information, click here

Services of General Economic Interest and State Aid: The Application of the Rules and National Experiences
EIPA
Maastricht, 23-24 April 2012
For further information, click here
State aid proceedings and litigation - EU Administrative and procedural law in State aid matters  
ERA  
Brussels, 26-27 April 2012  
For further information, click here

State Aid in the Transport Sector  
EIPA  
Maastricht, 31 May-1 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

Studies and reports

- none -

Invitations to tender

Call for proposals: Training of national judges in EU Competition Law and judicial co-operation between national judges  
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. Deadline: 17 April 2012  
Read more

Miscellanea

European Council confirms research and innovation as drivers of growth and jobs  
EU Heads of State and Government have today stressed that the Europe 2020 strategy is Europe’s growth strategy and its comprehensive response to the challenges it is facing. One of the targets of Europe 2020, through the Innovation Union flagship is to boost innovation, research and development in Europe. In particular Europe needs to improve its ability to transform good research into innovative products and services that meets market demand. The conclusions of the European Council stress the need for more efforts to complete the European Research Area by 2014, as well as a number of other important advances that are necessary. This memo sets out progress achieved on some key areas of EU action on research and innovation, a vital component of Europe's future competitiveness and growth.  
Read more

Next publication date: Friday 16.03.2012

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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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mailto: comp-state-aid-enums@ec.europa.eu

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