State Aid Weekly e-News

No. 13/15
9 April 2015
Covers the period from 27 March to 9 April

Highlights

Commission approves restructuring aid in favour of Irish bank Permanent TSB
The European Commission has found that restructuring aid granted by Ireland to Permanent TSB (PTSB) is in line with EU state aid rules. The restructuring plan sets out the path for PTSB to become viable in the long-term without further state support, while ensuring that the bank and its owners contribute to the cost of restructuring and limiting the distortions of competition created by the aid.
Read more

Commission approves three aid schemes for the French aviation sector
On April 7 the Commission approved, for the first time, three state aid schemes for airports and airlines on the basis of the new Guidelines on State aid to airports and airlines adopted in February 2014. The Commission considers, in particular, that these schemes for the French aviation sector promote regional connectivity without causing undue distortion of competition in the Single Market. The schemes will enable France to grant individual aid that complies with the criteria laid down in the Guidelines without further intervention by the Commission.
Read more

Commission orders Romania to recover incompatible state aid granted in compensation for abolished investment aid scheme
Following an in-depth investigation, the European Commission has concluded that compensation paid by Romania to two Swedish investors for an abolished investment aid scheme breaches EU state aid rules. The beneficiaries have to pay back all amounts already received, which are equivalent to those granted by the abolished aid scheme.
Read more

Commission approves German exemptions from mandatory rebates for pharmaceutical companies
Following an in-depth investigation, the European Commission has concluded that a German scheme exempting pharmaceutical companies from mandatory rebates was in line with EU State aid rules. In particular, the Commission found that the scheme allows the costs of the public health system to be kept under control through price freezes on certain medicines, without going beyond what is strictly necessary for this purpose.
Read more

Commission concludes that majority of derogations from British Aggregates Levy are free of aid
The European Commission has concluded that all but one of the exemptions, exclusions and tax reliefs from the aggregates levy introduced in the United Kingdom in 2002 are free of state aid. The British aggregates levy is a tax on aggregates, a material often used in construction, which aims to encourage the use of recycled aggregates and reduce environmental damage. It is levied on rock, sand or gravel on their first extraction as well as on processed products. Derogations apply to certain extraction processes and to materials with certain geological features.
Read more

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Commission Decisions

List of Commission Decisions taken during the reporting period, regardless of their publication in the Official Journal. The list of Commission Decisions recently published in the Official Journal is available here.
### Article 4(3) - decision not to raise objections

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<td>Croatia</td>
<td>SA.37912</td>
<td>Croatia – Tonnage tax scheme</td>
<td>Sectoral development</td>
<td>01.04.2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
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<td>Régime d’aide à l’exploitation des petits et moyens aéroports français</td>
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<td>France</td>
<td>SA.38937</td>
<td>Régime d’aide à l’investissement des petits et moyens aéroports français</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Mobile telephony in mountainous areas of Bolzano (Passo Rombo)</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
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<td>Modification of Dutch SDE+ RES scheme</td>
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### Article 7(3) - positive decision

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<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>Program Farmer</td>
<td>Investment (AGRI)</td>
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<td>Finland</td>
<td>SA.40228</td>
<td>Aid to compensate for the damage caused by predator animals</td>
<td>Aid to compensate for the damage caused by predator animals</td>
<td>31.03.2015</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Contributions pour les travaux d'irrigation du Consortium de bonification des Marches</td>
<td>Energy saving</td>
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### Article 7(5) and 14(1) - negative decision with recovery

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<td>Romania</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>British aggregates levy</td>
<td>Environmental protection</td>
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### Block exemptions

Block Exemptions information sheets published in the State Aid register during the reporting period.

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Court of Justice of the European Union

List of cases planned for the week following the reporting period, as published in the judicial calendar of the Court.

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<td>Greece</td>
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<td>Trapeza Eurobank Ergasias</td>
<td>Judgment</td>
<td>16.04.2015</td>
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European Economic Area

Based on the Agreement of 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.

Decisions of the EFTA Surveillance Authority

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<td>Norway</td>
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Additional points of interest

Events

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<tr>
<td>The Inaugural Hart &amp; Bloomsbury Publishing State Aid Conference 2015</td>
<td>17 April</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Hart Publishing</td>
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<td>State Aid for Infrastructure Projects</td>
<td>27-28 April</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>European Academy for Taxes, Economics &amp; Law</td>
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<td>EU Funding &amp; State Aid for Energy</td>
<td>27-28 April</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>Lexxion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services of General Economic interest and State Aid</td>
<td>29-28 April</td>
<td>Maastricht</td>
<td>European Institute of Public Administration</td>
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<td>Advanced EU Competition Law</td>
<td>29-28 April</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>IBC Legal</td>
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<td>State Aid Assessment and Evaluation</td>
<td>11-12 May</td>
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<td>Competition Law Challenges in the Financial Services Sector</td>
<td>19 May</td>
<td>London</td>
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<td>State Aid Proceedings and Litigation</td>
<td>21-22 May</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>Academy of European Law</td>
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Future Energy and Climate Change Policies under the New State Aid Guidelines
Read more
28-29 May Maastricht European Institute of Public Administration

State Aid & ESI Funds - for Operational Programmes and EU Funded Projects
Read more
8-9 June Brussels Lexxion

5th European Summer Academy “State Aid 2015” - GBER • Notification • R&D&I • SGEI • Recovery
Read more
8-10 June Berlin European Academy for Taxes, Economics & Law

13th Experts’ Forum on New Developments in European State Aid Law
Read more
10-12 June Brussels Lexxion

Seminar: State Aid in the Transport Sector
Read more
17-18 June Maastricht European Institute of Public Administration

Conference: Politicization of Competition Policy
Read more
18 June London Chatham House

Important Areas of State Aid Practice
Read more
22-23 June Brussels Lexxion

Best Practice & Problem Solving in State Aid Master Class with Prof. Dr. Phedon Nicolaides
Read more
6-7 July Brussels Lexxion

Summer Course on European Competition Law
Read more
6-10 July Trier Academy of European Law

State Aid & SGEI in Health Care, Social Services and Infrastructure
Read more
27-28 August Berlin European Academy for Taxes, Economics & Law

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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. Other documents related to the cases, can be found under the link to the State aid Register.

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