Highlights

Taking stock and looking forward: a year at the helm of EU competition
Paris, 11 February 2011
To read the full speech, click here

Commission opens formal investigation into proposed Polish aid to Fiat Powertrain
The European Commission has opened a formal investigation under EU State aid rules into Polish plans to grant aid towards a project by the Fiat group to produce a new generation of petrol engines in the Silesia region. At this stage, the Commission has doubts the aid meets the EU guidelines on aid to large investment projects in relation to the market shares and production capacities of the Fiat Group. The opening of a formal investigation gives interested third parties the possibility to comment on the proposed measure. It does not prejudge the outcome of the procedure.
Read more

Romanian subsidized loan scheme for farmers authorised
The European Commission has recently authorised a Romanian scheme with a budget of RON 120 million (around € 30 million) which aims at helping farmers encountering difficulties as a result of the current economic crisis to have access to credit. Aid under this scheme is limited in time and takes the form of subsidized loans. This scheme is an application of the Commission’s Temporary Framework for businesses’ access to finance during the crisis adopted in December 2010 (see IP/10/1636).
Read more

Extension of German scheme to grant aid of up to €15 000 to farmers
The European Commission has authorised under EU state aid rules the extension until 31 December 2011 of a temporary German scheme to grant aid of up to €15 000 per beneficiary. The aid aims at supporting farmers who encounter difficulties as a result of the economic crisis. The beneficiaries can now apply for aid until 31 March 2011 and the German authorities must grant the aid no later than 31 December 2011. The Commission found the extension of the scheme, initially approved on 23 November 2009 (see IP/09/1805), to be in line with the conditions of its Temporary Framework for businesses' access to finance during the crisis adopted in December 2010 (see IP/10/1636).
Midday Express - 10 February 2011

Commission clears extension of Dutch scheme to grant aid of up to € 15 000 to farmers
The European Commission has authorised under EU state aid rules the extension until 31 December 2011 of a temporary Dutch scheme to grant aid of up to € 15 000 per beneficiary.
Continue on page 2

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- Final Commission decisions >>
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The aid aims at supporting farmers who encounter difficulties as a result of the economic crisis. The beneficiaries can apply for aid until 31 March 2011 and the Dutch authorities must grant the aid no later than 31 December 2011. The Commission found the extension of the scheme, initially approved on 22 December 2009 (see IP/09/1993), to be in line with the conditions of its Temporary Framework for access to finance during the crisis adopted in December 2010 (see IP/10/1636).

**Midday Express - 11 February 2011**

**Decisions to open formal investigation**

1. **Decisions taken by the Commission**

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<th>Objective</th>
<th>Decision date</th>
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<td>Fiat Powertrain Technologies</td>
<td>SA.30340</td>
<td>Regional development aid</td>
<td>09.02.2011</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2. **Decisions pending OJ publication**

Click here to see the full list

3. **Decisions published in the OJ from 10.01.2010 to 10.02.2011 – 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>
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<td>OJ C 43 of 11.02.2011, p. 6 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Aide présumée octroyée à la société SEA Handling S.p.A</td>
<td>C 14/2010 (ex NN 25/2010)</td>
<td>Regional development aid</td>
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<td>OJ C 29 of 29.01.2011, p. 10 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Bad bank for WestLB Extend proceedings</td>
<td>C 40/2009 (ex N 555/2009)</td>
<td>Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy</td>
<td>05.11.2010</td>
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<td>OJ C 23 of 25.01.2011, p. 9 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv</td>
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<td>Press release</td>
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<td>Deadline for comments*: 25.02.2011</td>
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Denmark
Legislative Proposal L 203 on Gaming Duties
Part no aid decision/Part decision to open formal investigation
OJ C 22 of 22.01.2011, p. 9  
Press release
Deadline for comments*: 22.02.2011

France
Amélioration de l’espèce équine et promotion de l’élevage
OJ C 10 of 14.01.2011, p. 4  
Deadline for comments*: 14.02.2011

Germany
Alleged infrastructure aid to Propapier
OJ C 7 of 12.01.2011, p. 10  
Deadline for comments*: 14.02.2011

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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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<th>Objective</th>
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<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Second amendment to the scheme regarding the creation of value-added agricultural products (N 303/2008)</td>
<td>N 466/2010</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Amendments to the Renewables Obligation Northern Ireland 2011</td>
<td>N 556/2010</td>
<td>Environmental aid</td>
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### Germany
- **Federal Framework for small amounts of compatible aid in agriculture**
- Midday Express - 10 February 2011
- **SA.32170**
- Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy
- 09.02.2011

### Netherlands
- Extension of the scheme 'Limited amounts of compatible aid (guarantees for working capital) for undertakings active in the primary production of agricultural products'
- Midday Express - 11 February 2011
- **SA.32160**
- Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy
- 10.02.2011

### Romania
- Aide d'Etat temporaire destinée à assurer l'accès au financement en agriculture
- Press release
- N 372/2010
- Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy
- 28.01.2011

### Spain
- Première boisement des terres agricoles (Mesure 221 Developement Rural)
- N 419/2010
- Forestry
- 09.02.2011

### Spain
- Premier boisement de terres non agricoles (Mesure 223 Developement Rural)
- N 435/2010
- Forestry
- 09.02.2011

### United Kingdom
- Rural Development Plan (Scotland)
- NN 58/2005
- Agri-environmental commitments
- 10.02.2011

### DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries cases
- Germany
  - Staatliche Beihilfen im Fischerei- und Aquakultursektor im Zusammenhang mit Naturkatastrophen
  - N 374/2010
  - 07.02.2011

#### 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”.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title/link to documents</th>
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<th>Objective</th>
<th>Decision date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Réduction d'une dette TVA de la société UMICORE S.A. No aid decision (after formal investigation procedure)</td>
<td>C 76/2003 (ex NN 69/2003)</td>
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#### 3. Decisions published in the OJ

##### 3.1. Decisions to close formal investigation
### Hungary

*Alleged aid to MOL*

*Negative decision with recovery*

OJ L 34 of 09.02.2011, p. 55 [bg es cs da de et en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv](C 1/2009 (ex NN 69/2008))(es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv)

**Decision date:** 09.06.2010

---

#### 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>
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<td><strong>DG Competition cases</strong></td>
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| Denmark | Prolongation of short term export credit insurance scheme in 2011  
| Denmark | Scheme for the production and broadcasting of Danish TV drama and TV documentary programmes  
| Estonia | Compatible limited amount of aid  
OJ C 40 of 09.02.2011, p. 7 [bg es cs da de et en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv](Press release) | SA.32104 | Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy | 13.01.2011 |
| France | Régime temporaire relatif aux aides compatibles d’un montant limité  
OJ C 39 of 08.02.2011, p. 4 [bg es cs da de et en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv](Press release) | SA.32140 | Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy | 24.01.2011 |
| France | Régime d’aides à caractère social au bénéfice de certains résidents des collectivités d’outre-mer français  
OJ C 40 of 09.02.2011, p. 1 [bg es cs da de et en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv](Press release) | N 159/2010 | Social support to individual consumers | 05.10.2010 |
| Germany | Bürgschaftsrichtlinie des Landes Brandenburg für die Wirtschaft und die freien Berufe – Betriebsmittel  
OJ C 40 of 09.02.2011, p. 10 [bg es cs da de et en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv](Press release) | SA.32121 | Regional development aid | 26.01.2011 |
| Germany | German Federal Guarantee scheme - adjustment for phased out statistical effect regions  
OJ C 40 of 09.02.2011, p. 7 [bg es cs da de et en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv](Press release) | SA.32156 | Regional development aid | 26.01.2011 |
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<td>N 299/2010</td>
<td>Regional development aid</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Valuation of assets under NAMA - first tranche</td>
<td>N 331/2010</td>
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<td>03.08.2010</td>
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<td>N 522/2010</td>
<td>Rescuing firms in difficulty</td>
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Switch-over to digital TV broadcasting in Slovakia - Parallel operation  
OJ C 39 of 08.02x.2011, p. 1 [bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv]  
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N671b/2009  
Sectoral development aid  
17.11.2010

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Aid to short films in Spain  
OJ C 37 of 05.02.2011, p. 2 [bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv]  
N 205/2010  
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OJ C 39 of 08.02.2011, p. 5 [bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv]  
N 567/2009  
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United Kingdom  
Addition to Small Amounts of Compatible Aid Approval N43/2009  
OJ C 39 of 08.02.2011, p. 3 [bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv]  
SA.32110  
Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy  
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United Kingdom  
WRAP - Capital Grants and Lease Guarantee Fund Scheme (prolongation and modification)  
OJ C 40 of 09.02.2011, p. 9 [bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv]  
N 517/2010  
Environmental aid  
05.01.2011

Block exemptions

Block exemption Information sheets published in the OJ and/or in the State aid register between 03.02.2011 and 10.02.2011

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

- none -

2. General Court

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</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

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title/link to documents*</th>
<th>Case number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td><strong>NEW</strong> State aid granted in the restoration of (old) Landsbanki Islands hf and the establishment and capitalisation of New Landsbanki Islands (NBI hf) Dec 493/10/COL OJ C 41 of 10.02.2011, p. 31 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv Press release Deadline for comments*: 10.03.2011</td>
<td>69096</td>
<td>Financial crisis</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
<td>Formal investigation with regard to sale of land by Oppdal municipality Dec 417/10/COL OJ C 34 of 03.02.2011, p. 8 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv Deadline for comments*: 03.03.2011</td>
<td>68642</td>
<td></td>
<td>03.11.2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.*
Iceland Regional aid concerning the construction of Verne Data Centre
Dec 418/10/COL
OJ C 25 of 27.01.2011, p. 6 bg cs de et el en fr it lv mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv
Deadline for comments*: 28.02.2011

Newly adopted decisions

Iceland Financing of the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service Ríkisútvarpið (RÚV)
Decision 38/11/COL
Press release

Norway State aid to Finnfjord AS for an energy recovery system
Decision 39/11/COL
Press release

Public versions of decisions made available

Norway State aid to Nord Trøndelag Elektrisitetsverk Energi AS for the Ytre Vikna wind
Decision 490/10/COL

Norway State aid to Jæren Energi AS for Høg- Jæren wind park
Decision 488/10/COL

2. EFTA Court

- none -

3. State Aid New Legislation

- none -

4. Other EEA points of interest

- none -

Additional points of interest

Events

State Aid for Environmental Protection
This two-day seminar introduces the state aid guidelines for environmental protection as well as the objective and developments of the European Union’s environmental policy. This is followed by an in-depth focus on feed-in tariffs and eco-taxation.
Maastricht, 17-18 February 2011
For further information, click here
State Aid in the European Union: Latest Developments on Policy and Practice

The purpose of the seminar is to examine in depth the interpretation and application of the Treaty rules and of the regulations, guidelines and notices that have been developed by the Commission over the years. Main Commission decisions and Community courts’ rulings are analysed so that participants obtain a better understanding of the factors that shape those decisions and rulings.

Maastricht, 29-30 March 2011 (Optional ‘Introductory Workshop’ on 28 March 2011)

For further information, click here

Invitations to tender

Call for tenders: Technical, economic and legal assessment in the context of ICT and media competition cases
Deadline: 15 March 2011
For further information, click here

New Call for proposals: Training of national judges in EU Competition Law (incl. State aid) and judicial co-operation between national judges
Deadline for submission of applications: Monday, 4th April 2011
For further information, click here

Next publication date: Friday 18.02.2011

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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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