Highlights

**Commission opens investigation into French aid to Val’Hor**
Brussels, 11 January 2012 - The European Commission has decided to open a formal investigation procedure under EU state aid rules into inter-branch levies in France paid to members of the association for the development of professional horticulture and landscape products and sectors (Val’Hor). The Commission has doubts concerning the compatibility of this measure with EU law. The opening of a formal investigation allows the Commission to examine the measure more closely and gives interested third parties the possibility to submit comments. It does not prejudge the outcome of the procedure. [Read more]

**Commission orders Hungary to recover incompatible state aid from national air carrier Malév**
Brussels, 9 January 2012 - The European Commission found that financing granted to Hungarian flag carrier Malév between 2007 and 2010 in the context of its privatisation and renationalisation constitutes illegal state aid, as Malév would not have been able to obtain similar financing from the market on the terms conceded by the Hungarian authorities. Hungary now needs to recover the unlawful aid from the beneficiary. [Read more]

In the issue:

- New legislation >>
- Draft legislation and public consultations >>
- Decisions to open formal investigation >>
- Final Commission decisions >>
- Block exemptions >>
- European Economic Area >>
- Additional points of interest >>

New legislation

Communication from the Commission on the application of the European Union State aid rules to compensation granted for the provision of services of general economic interest
OJ C 8 of 11.01.2012, p. 4 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv

Communication from the Commission — European Union framework for State aid in the form of public service compensation (2011)
OJ C 8 of 11.01.2012, p. 15 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv

Commission Decision of 20 December 2011 on the application of Article 106(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to State aid in the form of public service compensation granted to certain undertakings entrusted with the operation of services of general economic interest (notified under document C(2011) 9380)
OJ L 7 of 11.01.2012, p. 3 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv

Communication from the Commission — Approval of the content of a draft for a Commission Regulation on de minimis aid for the provision of services of general economic 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>Consultation on the Review of the EU state aid rules for research, development and innovation (R&amp;D&amp;I)</td>
<td>24.02.2012</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

<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>Italy</td>
<td>Report de paiement du prélèvement laitier en Italie</td>
<td>SA.33726</td>
<td>Restructuring firms in difficulty</td>
<td>11.01.2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Decisions pending OJ publication

[Click here to see the full list](#)


*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>
</table>
**Final Commission decisions**

1. Decisions taken by the Commission

1.1. Decisions to close formal investigation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Case number</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Decision date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Prolongation of the Danish export credit financing scheme</td>
<td>SA.33844</td>
<td>Promotion of export and internationalisation</td>
<td>11.01.2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Decision does not constitute aid</td>
<td></td>
<td>Midday Express 11.01.2012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Press release</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Guidelines for the examination of State Aid to fisheries and aquaculture - Non acceptance of the appropriate measures for the Fisheries Insurance Scheme.</td>
<td>C 21/2010 (ex E 1/2010)</td>
<td>Positive decision</td>
<td>11.01.2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.2. No objection decisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Case number</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Decision date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Renewable Feed In Tariff</td>
<td>SA.31236</td>
<td>Environmental aid</td>
<td>12.01.2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Poland
Aid to firms hiring persons held in detention (amendment to N 519/2007)
SA.33608
Employment aid
11.01.2012

DG Agriculture cases

Denmark
Large Growth Guarantee Scheme/ extension of the calculation methodology for the aid element in guarantees (SA.33022)
SA.33810
SME aid
06.01.2012

Italy
Aid scheme for forestry measures in the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 of Calabria region
SA.33112
Forestry aid
06.01.2012

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
* 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>
</table>
Hungary  |  First afforestation of agricultural land - EAFRD (Art. 43 of Regulation (EC) 1698/2005)  
| | OJ C 8 of 11.01.2012, 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.32709  
| | Forestry aid  
| | Rural development aid  
| | 29.07.2011

Hungary  |  Non-productive investments in forests-conversion of forest structure- EAFRD (Art. 49 of Reg. 1698/2005)  
| | OJ C 8 of 11.01.2012, p. 2  
| | [bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv]  
| | SA.32707  
| | Forestry aid  
| | 25.07.2011

Hungary  |  Forest environment measures-EAFRD (Article 47 of Regulation (EC) 1698/2005)  
| | OJ C 8 of 11.01.2012, p. 2  
| | [bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv]  
| | SA.32706  
| | Environmental aid  
| | Forestry aid  
| | Rural development aid  
| | 25.07.2011

Hungary  |  Establishing agroforestry systems – EAFRD (Article 44 of Regulation (EC) 1698/2005)  
| | OJ C 8 of 11.01.2012, p. 1  
| | [bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv]  
| | SA.32705  
| | Forestry aid  
| | Rural development aid  
| | 25.07.2011

**Block exemptions**

Block exemption Information sheets published in the OJ and/or in the State Aid register between 05.01.2012 and 12.01.2012

**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>
</table>
| Iceland | State aid to three Icelandic investment banks  
| | Decision 363/11/COL  
| | 70798  
| | Financial crisis  
| | 23.11.2011

| Norway | Sale of the entitlement to concession power to Narvik Energy AS – formal investigation  
| | Decision 393/11/COL  
| | 70848  
| | Energy  
| | 14.12.2011

| Iceland | Investments of Reykjavik Energy in Lina.Net  
| | OJ C 10 of 12.01.2012, p. 6  
| | [bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv]  
| | 59332  
| | Telecommunications  
| | 05.10.2011
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Norway</th>
<th>Merger of the Scheme for alternative, renewable heating and electricity savings in households into the Energy Fund scheme</th>
<th>70309</th>
<th>Environmental aid</th>
<th>05.10.2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decision 299/11/COL</td>
<td>OJ C 10 of 12.01.2012, p. 4 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si sv</td>
<td>Press release</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Broadband in Tromsø</td>
<td>69800</td>
<td>Broadband</td>
<td>13.07.2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision 231/11/COL</td>
<td>OJ C 10 of 12.01.2012, p. 5 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si sv</td>
<td>Press release</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. EFTA Court

- none -

3. State Aid New Legislation

- none -

4. Other EEA points of interest

Public holidays in 2012: EEA/EFTA States and EEA institutions
OJ C 10 of 12.01.2011, p. 7 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si sv

Additional points of interest

Events

- none -

Studies and reports

- none -

Invitations to tender

- none -

Miscellanea

Helle Thorning-Schmidt: We need a more responsible Europe
The first priority of the Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2012 is to ensure a responsible European economy so that Europe can overcome the crisis and get back on track, says Helle Thorning-Schmidt, Prime Minister of Denmark, in an exclusive interview for this website.

Read more
Communication on e-commerce – frequently asked questions
Read more

Next publication date: Friday 20.01.2012

Previous issues

Subscription:
If you wish to subscribe to “State Aid Weekly e-News” and receive it every Friday in your Inbox for free, please click here. To unsubscribe, please, use the same link.
Please, note that the information requested under “Change personal details” is not compulsory. In order to complete the subscription it is sufficient to fill in the data requested under “Add subscription”.

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/

Publisher:
European Commission
DG Competition
Unit H-3 – State aid network, Transparency and Fiscal aid
Chief Editor: Monique Negenman
Editing team: Marek Tóth, Helga Van den Steen, Maria Auxiliadora Valpuesta Contreras, Souad Jemidar, Valérie Boddin, Ulrich Diez
mailto: comp-state-aid-enews@ec.europa.eu

Disclaimer:
Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is responsible for the completeness, accuracy of the information and the use which might be made of the information provided in this document.

© European Union 2012.
Reproduction is authorised, provided the source is acknowledged, save where otherwise stated. Where prior permission must be obtained for the reproduction or use of textual and multimedia information, such permission shall cancel the above-mentioned general permission and shall clearly indicate any restrictions on use.