

State Aid Weekly e-News

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Covers the period from 12 to 18 June

Highlights

Commission approves € 3 billion aid scheme in Germany to support high speed internet roll-out

The European Commission has found that the main elements of Germany's proposal for a national support scheme for the roll out of next generation access (NGA) broadband networks are in line with EU state aid rules. The € 3 billion scheme aims at providing high speed internet access throughout the country, including in rural areas. This will favour economic, social and cultural integration. The Commission concluded that overall the scheme furthers the objectives of the EU Digital Strategy whilst maintaining competition in the Single Market.

[Read more](#)

Commission finds that electricity contracts between state-owned Romanian electricity generator Hidroelectrica and certain customers did not involve state aid

Following an [in-depth investigation](#), the European Commission has concluded that electricity supply contracts signed by the state-owned Romanian electricity generator Hidroelectrica with certain electricity traders and industrial customers did not involve state aid within the meaning of the EU rules. The Commission found that the contracts were either concluded on market terms or, where tariffs were below market level, that the Romanian state could not be held responsible for the tariffs granted. In particular, the analysis revealed that Hidroelectrica charged prices that were fully in line with the benchmark market price to nine customers (ArcelorMittal, Alro, Alpiq RomEnergie, Alpiq RomIndustries, EFT, Electrica, Electromagnetica, Energy Holding, Euro-Pec). The prices charged to Luxten-Lighting, Electrocarbon and Elsid were lower than the benchmark market price. However, the investigation did not establish that the decision to grant favourable conditions to these relatively minor private players can be attributed to the Romanian authorities. The Commission therefore concluded that none of the sale contracts under examination involved state aid.

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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 1(2)(a) GBER – approval of the evaluation plan

Country	Case Number	Title	Objective	Decision date
DG Competition				
Poland	SA.38830	Evaluation plan Polish SEZ scheme		16/06/2015

Article 4(3) - decision not to raise objections

Country	Case Number	Title	Objective	Decision date
DG Competition				
Germany	SA.38348	NGA Germany	Regional development	15/06/2015

Article 7(3) - positive decision

Country	Case Number	Title	Objective	Decision date
DG Competition				
Romania	SA.33451	Alleged preferential tariffs in contracts of Hidroelectrica SA with electricity traders		12/06/2015
Romania	SA.33581	Alleged preferential tariffs in contracts of Hidroelectrica SA with industrial producers		12/06/2015
Romania	SA.33623	Preferential electricity tariffs for ArcelorMittal Galați - Romania		12/06/2015
Romania	SA.33624	Preferential electricity tariffs for ALRO Slatina - Romania		12/06/2015

The non-confidential version of the decisions will be made available under the case numbers SA.33623, SA.33624, SA.33451 and SA.33581, in the [State Aid Register](#) on the DG competition website once any confidentiality issues have been resolved.

Corrigendum

Country	Case Number	Title	Objective	Decision date
DG Competition				
France	SA.38937	Régime d'aide à l'investissement des petits et moyens aéroports français	Regional development	12/06/2015
France	SA.38938	Régime d'aide au démarrage des compagnies aériennes au départ des petits et moyens aéroports français	Regional development	12/06/2015
Ireland	SA.33442	Restructuring plan of Irish Life and Permanent	Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy	18/06/2015

Block exemptions

[Block Exemptions information sheets published in the State Aid register during the reporting period.](#)

Court of Justice of the European Union

List of cases discussed during the reporting period, as published in the [judicial calendar](#) of the Court. The respective case documents are normally published on the Court website within a short interval.

Country	Court Case	Title	Type of act	Date
France	C-33/14 P	Mory and Others v Commission	Opinion	18.06.2015

List of cases planned for the week following the reporting period, as published in the [judicial calendar](#) of the Court.

Country	Court Case	Title	Type of act	Date
Italy	T-527/13	Italy v Commission	Judgment	24.06.2015
Italy	T305/13	SACE and Sace BT v Commission	Judgment	25.06.2015

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

Country	Case Number	Title	Objective	Decision date
Newly adopted decisions				
Iceland	76459	Decision to close the formal investigation initiated by means of Decision 543/14/COL - 2014 PCC Power Contract and 2014 Transmission Agreement (DEC 238/15/COL)	No aid	17/06/2015

Additional points of interest

Events

Title	Date	Place	Organiser
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	24-25 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
10. Jahresfachkonferenz EU-Beihilfen in deutscher Praxis Read more	14-15 September	Berlin	European Academy for Taxes, Economics & Law
7th annual conference on State Aid Law Read more	28-29 September	Speyer	German University for Administrative Sciences

Miscellanea

High Level Forum with Member States

Next Tuesday, June 23rd, the Commission will hold the High Level Forum with Member States on the [SAM Implementation](#).

Read more: [Press release](#) and [Speech](#) by Margrethe Vestager, Commissioner for Competition, at the previous High Level Forum (December 2014).

Next publication date: Thursday 25.06.2015

[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](#).

Other documents related to the cases, can be found under the link to the [State aid Register](#).

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