Commission adopts revised guidelines for supporting firms in difficulty
In the context of its State Aid Modernisation (SAM) initiative, the European Commission has revised its rules for assessing Member States' support measures to rescue and restructure companies in difficulty. The new guidelines aim to ensure that public funding is channelled where it is needed most and that investors in failing firms carry their fair share of the costs of restructuring, rather than leaving the burden to taxpayers. The rules adopted apply only to non-financial firms in difficulty; a separate set of rules is in place for banks and other financial institutions (see most recently IP/13/672). The new guidelines will enter into force on 1 August 2014 (see also MEMO/14/473).

In this issue:

- New legislation >>
- Decisions to open formal investigation >>
- Final Commission decisions >>
- Court of Justice of the European Union >>
- European Economic Area >>
- Additional points of interest >>

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 17.06.2014 to 17.07.2014 – 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.
   - none –

Final Commission decisions

1. Decisions taken by the Commission

1.1. Decisions to close formal investigation procedure
   - none –
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>France</td>
<td>Crédit d’impôt dépenses France</td>
<td>SA.38442</td>
<td>Culture</td>
<td>15.07.2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>5th prolongation of the Credit Union Resolution Scheme H2 2014</td>
<td>SA.38985</td>
<td>Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy</td>
<td>17.07.2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Additional notification to SA.36248(2013/PN) - Liquidation aid for resolution of AB Ukio Bankas</td>
<td>SA.38664</td>
<td>Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy</td>
<td>17.07.2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Decisions published in the OJ

2.1. 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>
</table>

2.2. 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.

- none -

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Court case*</th>
<th>Parties</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Type of act</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Related case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</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

<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>Iceland</td>
<td>Financing of the Icelandic Housing Financing Fund (HFF)</td>
<td>70382 (Dec. 298/14/CO)</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>16.07.2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>Opening of investigation into potential aid concerning the lease of an optical fibre</td>
<td>75036 (Dec. 299/14/CO)</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>16.07.2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Opening of investigation into potential aid to Innovation Norway</td>
<td>74070 (Dec. 300/14/CO)</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>16.07.2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein</td>
<td>Certain state aid Guidelines amended to improve transparency</td>
<td>75581 (Dec. 302/14/CO)</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>16.07.2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Decisions published in the OJ

| Liechtenstein | Aid to the citizens’ co-operative Balzers (“CCB”) for district heating in Balzers | 74432 (Dec 171/14/CO) | Environment | 24.04.2014 |

2. EFTA Court

- none -

3. Block exemptions

- none -

4. State Aid New Legislation

- none -

5. Other EEA points of interest

- none -

Additional points of interest

Events

Advanced State Aid Seminar
EIPA
Maastricht, 29-30 September 2014
For further information, click here

European Conference: State Aid Control, Procedures State Aid Modernisation, ESI Funds in Compliance with State Aid
Lexxion
29-30 September 2014, Sofia, Bulgaria
For further information, click here

Studies and reports

Eurostat: June 2014 - Euro area annual inflation stable at 0.5%. EU up to 0.7%
Euro area annual inflation was 0.5% in June 2014, stable compared with May. A year earlier the rate was 1.6%. Monthly inflation was 0.1% in June 2014. European Union annual inflation was 0.7% in June 2014, up from 0.6% in May. A year earlier the rate was 1.7%. Monthly inflation was 0.1% in June 2014.

**Eurostat: Indicators of economic globalisation - Monitoring the globalisation of the EU economy**

The globalisation of the world economy creates new needs for statistics. Therefore, Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, publishes today a set of economic globalisation indicators. These identify five aspects of economic globalisation: international trade, foreign direct investment (FDI), employment and value added of multinational enterprises as well as internationalisation technology. All in all, twelve indicators are included in this framework, of which four are shown in this News Release.

One of the seven flagship initiatives of the Europe 2020 strategy is to have an "industrial policy for the globalisation era", which means to support the development of a strong and sustainable industrial base to compete globally. Reliable indicators of economic globalisation and its impact on the EU economy are essential for the effective implementation of this policy.

**Invitations to tender**

Commission calls for proposals 2014 for training of national judges OPEN

The new Call for proposals 2014 on "Training of national judges in EU Competition Law and judicial cooperation" has been published at the end of May on the following website: http://ec.europa.eu/competition/calls/proposals_open.html as well as the Official Journal. The announced budget is of 1.000.000 EUR. **Deadline for application 29/08/2014.**

The objective of this call for proposals is to co-finance projects aimed at promoting judicial cooperation between, and the training for, national judges in the context of enforcing of the European competition rules. This includes public and private enforcement of both the Antitrust rules and the State aid rules. The final aim is to ensure the consistent application of EU competition law by national courts.

Projects should address at least one of the following areas:

- Improvement of knowledge, application and interpretation of EU competition law;
- Support to National Judicial Institutions on Competition Law knowledge;
- Improving and/or creating cooperation/networks;
- Development of legal linguistic skills of national judges;

**Miscellanea**

EU countries are dismantling barriers to the European Single Market

Since last summer, EU countries have stepped up their efforts to make it easier to live, work or do business in another EU country, according to the latest edition of the Single Market Scoreboard released by the European Commission today.

The Scoreboard indicates to what extent EU Member States and European Free Trade Area (EFTA) countries implement EU rules that are there to help citizens prosper in the single market; how Member States cooperate in a number of policy fields where coordination is essential; and how much information and assistance they provide to citizens and businesses on their opportunities within Europe.