Highlights

Los nuevos retos de la política de competencia de la UE
Joaquín Almunia, Vicepresidente de la Comisión Europea responsable de política de la Competencia
Comisión Nacional de la Competencia
Lunes 15 de marzo de 2010, Madrid
To read the full speech, click here

Commission approves Slovenian short-term export credit insurance scheme
The European Commission has authorised, under EU state aid rules, a measure adopted by Slovenia to limit the adverse impact of the current financial crisis on export firms. The Commission found the measure to be in line with its Temporary Framework for state aid measures to support access to finance in the current financial and economic crisis (see IP/08/1993). In particular, the measure requires a higher remuneration than that offered by the private market and tackles the problem of the current insufficiency of short-term export credit insurance cover on the private market. The Commission authorised the measure until 31 December 2010.
Read more

State aid: Commission approves prolongation of Portuguese recapitalisation scheme for credit institutions
The European Commission has authorised, under EU state aid rules, the prolongation until 30 June 2010 of a Portuguese recapitalisation scheme for credit institutions. The Commission found the prolongation of the measure, initially approved on 20 May 2009 (see IP/09/818), to be in line with its guidance on support measures for banks during the financial crisis (see IP/08/1495 and IP/08/1901). In particular, the extended measure is limited in time and scope. The Commission therefore concluded that the prolongation of the scheme represents an appropriate means ofremedying a serious disturbance in the Portuguese economy and as such is compatible with Article 107(3)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).
Midday express 17.03.2010

Consultation - Second questionnaire on the application of the Temporary Framework
In October 2009, Member States submitted a first report on the application of the Temporary Framework, according to the obligation contained in point 6 of the Framework. DG Competition has sent a new questionnaire to Member States in order to gather further and more updated evidence on the use of the Temporary Framework taking into account current economic circumstances. Comments from interested parties are also welcome (deadline for comments: 15 April 2010).
For further information, click here

In the issue:

- Draft legislation and public consultations >>
- Simplified Procedure: notification summaries
- Decisions to open formal investigation >>
- Final Commission decisions >>
- Block exemptions >>
- European Parliament >>
- European Court of Justice >>
- European Economic Area >>
- Additional points of interest >>
Council of the European Union - 3003rd ECONOMIC and FINANCIAL AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 16 March 2010

Main results
Council conclusions on Europe 2020
Council conclusions on exit strategies for crisis-related measures in labour and product markets
Council conclusions on financial exit
Council conclusions on the financing of climate change
Council conclusions on the budget guidelines for 2011

Draft legislation and public consultations

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<td>15.04.2010</td>
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All public consultations:  
- DG Competition
- DG Agriculture
- DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Simplified Procedure: notification summaries

**Invitation to comment on simplified procedure cases**
The summaries of aid measures notified under the Notice on a Simplified Procedure for the treatment of certain types of State aid have been prepared by the Member States under their responsibility. The Commission can therefore not be held responsible for any incorrect or misleading information contained therein. Observations raising competition issues relating to the notified measure must reach the Commission no later than 10 working days following the date of the publication of a summary of notification. The submission shall include a non confidential version of the observations. For more information, click here

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<th>Title</th>
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<td>Basque film support scheme</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>Amendment to Aid Scheme for Tax Rebates for Biofuels</td>
<td>N 81/2010</td>
<td>10.03.2010</td>
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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 18.02.2010 to 18.03.2010 – 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.*

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<tr>
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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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<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Slovenian export credit scheme</td>
<td>N 713/2009</td>
<td>Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy</td>
<td>16.03.2010</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
<td>Andalusia - Film Support 2009-2012</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>UK Film Council production &amp; development funds</td>
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<td>Culture aid</td>
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<td>N 18/2010</td>
<td>Sectoral development aid</td>
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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
DG Agriculture cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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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.

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<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Amendment to short term export credit insurance&lt;br&gt;OJ C 61 of 12.03.2010, p. 2 bg es cs de et el en fr it lv hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv&lt;br&gt;Press release</td>
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<td>Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy</td>
<td>05.02.2010</td>
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Block exemptions

*Block exemption Information sheets published in the OJ and/or in the State aid register between 11.03.2010 and 18.03.2010*

European Parliament

**Reshaping Europe’s economy and the global financial system**
MEPs and national MPs came together in a two-day debate on 16 and 17 March to debate financial regulation, revitalisation of the EU economy and the world’s new financial architecture. Guests included Spanish economy and finance minister Elena Salgado, IMF managing director Dominique Strauss-Kahn, European Central Bank senior economist Jürgen Stark and Commissioners Olli Rehn and Michel Barnier.

[Read more](#)

**A Strategy for Growth and Jobs until 2020 - Olli Rehn, European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Policy**

**Time to end "opportunistic speculation", Greek Prime Minister Papandreou tells MEPs**

State Aid Weekly e-News No 11/10
Countries all over the world are still struggling to emerge from the worst global recession since the 1930s. Yet this crisis should be seen as an "opportunity for deep changes to make the economy we both, Greeks as well as Europeans, can be proud of," George Papandreou told Parliament’s Special Committee on the Economic, Financial and Social Crisis (CRIS) on Thursday.

Read more

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.

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2. General Court

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<td>T-94/08</td>
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<td>C 15/2002 (ex E 1/2000) Régime fiscal des centres de coordination</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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</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>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<th>Iceland</th>
<th>EFTA Surveillance Authority Decision No. 435/09/COL of 30 October 2009 to initiate the procedure provided for in Article 1(2) in Part I of Protocol 3 to the Surveillance and Court Agreement with regard to a complaint regarding alleged state aid granted by the Port of Reykjavik to Stáltak hf. OJ C 54 of 04.03.2010, p. 2 Press release Deadline for comments*: 06.04.2010</th>
<th>67278</th>
<th>30.10.2009</th>
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2. EFTA Court

- none -

3. State Aid New Legislation

- none -

4. Other EEA points of interest

- none -

Additional points of interest

**Events**

**State Aid Policy and Practice in the European Community - An Integrative and Interactive approach**
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. In addition, for the beginners in the state aid area, there is an Introductory Workshop on the afternoon of Monday 22 March 2010. This presents the basic principles of state aid policy and offers an opportunity to work together on a number of cases.
Maastricht, 23-24 March 2010
For further information, click here

**State Aid Procedures and Enforcement & the SANI System (optional: introductory workshop on state aid principles)**
The purpose of the seminar is to examine in depth the interpretation and application of the state aid procedural rules. Recovery of aid, which constitutes a weak spot in the enforcement, third parties’ rights and
the application of state aid rules by national courts are some of the topics that will be analysed in detail. The seminar will also provide a forum for comparing national experiences as regards administrative arrangements for notifying and registering aid and the enforcement of recovery decisions. There will also be a working group exercise on how to deal with the assessment of cases that combine state aid with structural funds. Finally, the seminar will also provide, in cooperation with the European Commission, practice oriented training on the notification process. This training will be delivered by Commission officials and national representatives. There will be a presentation on SANI which (still) raises practical issues for users. In addition, for those interested, there will be an introductory workshop on Wednesday morning 14 April 2010. This will present the basic principles involved in the application of state aid rules, and provide an opportunity to work together on a number of cases.

Maastricht, 14 – 16 April 2010

For further information, click here

Studies and reports

Scoreboard shows more innovation needed in Europe
Most EU Member States until 2008 were steadily improving their innovation performance. The economic crisis may, however, be hampering this progress, according to the 2009 European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) published today. Early indications show that the worst hit are Member States with lower levels of innovation performance, potentially reversing the convergence process witnessed over recent years. Meanwhile, the latest statistics show that the EU is having difficulty in catching up with the US in innovation performance, although it maintains a clear lead over the emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China, despite rapid improvements in China.

Read more

The innovation performance in the EU Member States in 2009

February 2010: Euro area annual inflation down to 0.9%, EU down to 1.4%
Euro area annual inflation was 0.9% in February 2010, down from 1.0% in January. A year earlier the rate was 1.2%. Monthly inflation was 0.3% in February 2010. EU annual inflation was 1.4% in February 2010, down from 1.7% in January. A year earlier the rate was 1.8%. Monthly inflation was 0.3% in February 2010.

Read more

First estimate for the fourth quarter of 2009: Employment down by 0.2% in the euro area and by 0.3% in the EU27, -2.0% and -2.1% respectively compared with the fourth quarter of 2008
The number of persons employed in the euro area (EA16) fell by 0.2% (347 000 persons) in the fourth quarter of 2009 compared with the previous quarter, according to national accounts estimates published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In the same period, the number of persons employed in the EU27 decreased by 0.3% (583 000 persons). In the third quarter of 2009, employment declined by 0.5% in both zones. These figures are seasonally adjusted.

Read more

January 2010 compared with December 2009: Industrial production up by 1.7% in euro area, up by 1.8% in EU27
In January 2010 compared with December 2009, seasonally adjusted industrial production grew by 1.7% in the euro area (EA16) and by 1.8% in the EU27. In December 2009 production increased by 0.6% and 0.3% respectively. In January 2010 compared with January 2009, industrial production increased by 1.4% in the euro area and by 1.5% in the EU27.

Read more

Next publication date: Friday 26.03.2010

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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: 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/

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