Highlights

Economic Crisis in the Euro Zone
José Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission
European Parliament, Strasbourg, 18 April 2012
To read the full speech, click here

International cooperation to fight protectionism
Joaquín Almunia Vice President of the European Commission responsible for Competition Policy
11th Annual Conference of the International Competition Network
Rio de Janeiro, 18 April 2012
To read the full speech, click here

State Aid rules - Training of National Judges - Deadline extended!
The deadline for the Call for Proposals on Training of National judges in EU Competition Law and Judicial Cooperation has been extended until the 31st of May 2012. One of the actions provided for by the Decision concerns training for national judges in European competition law, including state aid rules and private enforcement.
Grants may be awarded to support measures taken by bodies which foster judicial cooperation and other measures aimed at promoting training in EU competition law for national judges and cooperation between them:
• the organisation of conferences, seminars, symposia or meetings on EU competition law for national judges;
• short or long-term training in EU competition law as part of study programmes for national judges;
• the distribution of documentation and information on EU competition law specifically tailored to the needs of national judges;
• cooperation, including the setting-up and/or maintenance of networks and/or databases, between judicial authorities or other public or private bodies responsible for encouraging or monitoring the proper application of EU competition law by national judges.
The Call and useful information have been published on the following website: http://ec.europa.eu/competition/calls/proposals_open.html as well as the Official Journal.

In the issue:
• Draft legislation and public consultations >>
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Draft legislation and public consultations
### Subject

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<td>Consultation on the revision of the European Union rules on regional state aid</td>
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All public consultations:  
- [DG Competition](#)  
- [DG Agriculture](#)  
- [DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries](#)

### Decisions to open formal investigation

1. **Decisions taken by the Commission**

   - none -

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>
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<th>Title/link to documents</th>
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<td>France</td>
<td>Airport Marketing Services (ex N50/07) &lt;br&gt;Decision to extend proceedings &lt;br&gt;OJ C 96 of 31.03.2012, p. 22 &lt;br&gt;bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv &lt;br&gt;Press release &lt;br&gt;Deadline for comments*: 02.05.2012</td>
<td>SA.22614 (C 53/2007)</td>
<td>Sectoral development aid</td>
<td>25.01.2012</td>
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**DG Agriculture cases**

**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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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Case number</th>
<th>Objective</th>
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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".

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Case number</th>
<th>Objective</th>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>Complaint against Germany for unlawful state aid to Deutsche Post  Partly Positive decision, partly Negative decision with recovery</td>
<td>C 36/2007 (ex NN 25/2007)</td>
<td>Services of general economic interest</td>
<td>25.01.2012</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Mesures en faveur de La Poste belge  Partly Positive decision, partly Negative decision with recovery</td>
<td>SA.14588 (ex C 20/2009)</td>
<td>Services of general economic interest</td>
<td>25.01.2012</td>
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**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>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>Reactivation of German rescue scheme</td>
<td>SA.34345</td>
<td>Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy</td>
<td>05.03.2012</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>Breitband Markt Mömbris</td>
<td>SA.33869</td>
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### Block exemptions

Block exemption Information sheets published in the OJ and/or in the State Aid register between 12.04.2012 and 19.04.2012

### European Parliament

**Taxation: Parliament opposes phase-out of diesel tax advantage**

"Neutrality" should not be imposed to deprive diesel of its tax advantage over petrol, said a majority of MEPs in Thursday's vote on a proposal to reform energy taxation. The Commission is proposing that the advantage it enjoys in most countries should be phased out.


Read more

**Corporate taxation: Parliament pushes for a compulsory common base**

The use of a common consolidated corporate tax base should be made compulsory, said Parliament in a vote on Thursday outlining its position on legislation proposed by the Commission. The Commission had proposed a voluntary scheme.


Read more

### Court of Justice of the European Union
**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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<td>Norway</td>
<td>Aid for the Development Phase of the Mongstad CCS Facility</td>
<td>69853</td>
<td>CCS</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
<td>Sale of land at Haslemoen Leir</td>
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### 2. EFTA Court

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<td>Provincie Groningen and Others v Commission</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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<td>06.01.2012</td>
<td>SA.31243 (ex N 308/2010) - Subsidieregeling grondaankoop EHS</td>
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</table>
3. State Aid New Legislation

- none -

4. Other EEA points of interest

- none -

Additional points of interest

Events

Services of General Economic Interest and State Aid: The Application of the Rules and National Experiences
EIPA
Maastricht, 23-24 April 2012
For further information, click here

State aid proceedings and litigation - EU Administrative and procedural law in State aid matters
ERA
Brussels, 26-27 April 2012
For further information, click here

State Aid in the Transport Sector
EIPA
Maastricht, 31 May-1 June 2012
For further information, click here

10th Experts’ Forum on New Developments in European State Aid Law, Brussels
European State aid Law Institute (ESTALI)
Brussels, 6-8 June 2012
For further information, click here

Recent Developments in State Aid Issues of Concern to Regional and Local Authorities
EIPA
Maastricht, 9-10 July 2012
For further information, click here

Studies and reports

March 2012 Euro area annual inflation stable at 2.7%, EU stable at 2.9%
Read more

Invitations to tender

Call for proposals: Training of national judges in EU Competition Law and judicial co-operation between national judges
On September 2007 the European Parliament and the Council adopted Decision No 1149/2007/EC establishing for the period 2007-2013 the Specific Grant Program Civil Justice as part of the General Program Fundamental Rights and Justice. One of the actions provided for by the Decision concerns training for national judges in European competition law, including state aid rules and private damages training. Thus, grants may be awarded to support measures taken by bodies which foster judicial cooperation and other measures aimed at promoting training in EU competition law for national judges and cooperation between them.

Deadline extended until: 31 May 2012
Read more
OJ C 111 of 18.08.2012, p. 8

COMP/2012/001 — Provision of consultancy services on technical, economic and legal matters in the context of ICT and media competition cases
Deadline: 24 April 2012
Read more

Miscellanea

Commission welcomes Parliament’s endorsement of risk-sharing instruments for Member States worst hit by the financial crisis, to contribute to investment and job creation
Brussels, 19 April 2012 - The European Parliament has today approved the Commission's proposal enabling the use of cohesion policy allocations still available to back-up guarantees and loans by financial institutions such as the European Investment Bank (EIB). EU funds will be used to create so-called “risk-sharing instruments”. The measure is intended to address the serious obstacles faced by some Member States, especially Greece, in raising the private financing needed to implement key projects which can only be part-financed by public funds. This tool will support more investment in the economy and therefore creation of jobs.
Read more

Commission presents new measures and identifies key opportunities for EU job-rich recovery
Strasbourg, 18 April 2012 – With EU unemployment hitting record levels and forecasts of a grim economic outlook for the months ahead, the Commission has come forward today with a set of concrete measures to boost jobs. The proposal focuses on the demand-side of job creation, setting out ways for Member States to encourage hiring by reducing taxes on labour or supporting business start-ups more. It also identifies the areas with the biggest job potential for the future: the green economy, health services and ICT. The policy communication underlines the need for a stronger employment and social dimension to EU governance and lays down ways to involve employers' and workers' representatives more in setting EU priorities.
Read more

Next publication date: Friday 27.04.2012

Previous issues

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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: Helga van den Steen, Maria Auxiliadora Valpuesta Contreras, Marek Tóth, Souad Jemidar, Ulrich Diez, Valérie Boddin
mailto: comp-state-aid-enews@ec.europa.eu

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