Highlights

Commissioner-designate Almunia’s public hearing in the European Parliament
Brussels, 12 January 2010

Press release
Hearings website - documents, procedure, background
Watch the video - Hearings of commissioners designate: Vice-President designate Mr Joaquín Almunia
Watch the video - PressPoint of Vice-President designate Mr Joaquín Almunia
Audio file of Opening Statement by Mr Almunia
Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee site

Simplified procedure for treatment of certain types of State Aid
On 8 January 2010, the Commission received a notification of a measure pursuant to Article 88 of the Treaty establishing the European Community concerning publishing aid for Basque literature. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified measure could fall within the scope of the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain types of State aid (JO C136, 16.06.2009, p. 3-12). As foreseen by the Notice, interested third parties are invited to provide substantiated comments on the envisaged measure within ten working days from the publication of a summary of the notification on the Commission website:

Simplified Procedure: Notification summaries

Updated list of the State aid decisions taken by the Commission in the areas of transportation and coal
Situation as of 18 January 2010

Public holidays in 2010
OJ C 9 p.31 of 15.01.2010 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv

In the issue:

- Simplified Procedure: notification summaries
- Decisions to open formal investigation
- Final Commission decisions
- Other types of decisions
- Block exemptions
- European Court of Justice
- Additional points of interest

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
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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title/link to documents</th>
<th>Case number</th>
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<td>Publishing aid for Basque literature</td>
<td>N 15/2010</td>
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DG Competition cases

Germany  Restructuring aid for Hypo Real Estate
Part extend proceedings decision/Part positive decision
OJ C 13 of 20.01.2010, p. 58 bg es cs da de et en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv
Press release
Deadline for comments*: 22.02.2010

Spain  New tax-based funding system for public broadcasting in Spain
OJ C 8 of 14.01.2010, p. 31 bg es cs da de et en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv
Press release
Deadline for comments*: 15.02.2010

Germany  Potential aid to Sparkasse Köln/Bonn
OJ C 2 of 06.01.2010, p. 13 bg es cs da de et en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv
Press release
Deadline for comments*: 08.02.2010


Romania
Support measures in favour of Oltchim SA Râmnicu Vâlcea
OJ C 321 of 29.12.2009, p. 21
Press release
Deadline for comments*: 29.01.2010

DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries cases
Italy
Région Sardaigne - mesures urgentes en faveur de l’emploi (loi régionale n. 28/1984)
OJ C 322 of 30.12.2009, p. 28
Deadline for comments*: 01.02.2010

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>N 589/2009</td>
<td>Investment in agricultural holdings</td>
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<td>Andalusia - Aides destinées à la reconversion des plantations des agrumes</td>
<td>N 343/2009</td>
<td>Investment in agricultural holdings</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
<td>Aides à la restructuration de &quot;PRIMAYOR ELABORADOS S.L.U.3 (Castilla-León)</td>
<td>N 178/2008</td>
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DG Transport and Energy cases

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<td>N 540/2009</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
<td>Autoroutes ferroviaires Alpines (AFA)</td>
<td>N 586/2009</td>
<td>15.01.2010</td>
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2. Public versions of decisions to close formal investigation*

State Aid Weekly e-News No 3/10
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

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<tr>
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<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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<td>Spain</td>
<td>Urgent measure to compensate for damages caused by drought and other adverse climatic conditions OJ C 9 of 15.01.2010, p. 2 bg es da de et el en fr it lv it hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv</td>
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Other types of decisions

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Greece Aid to ELVO
Corrigendum

C 47/2005 (ex NN 86/2005)
20.01.2010

Block exemptions

Block exemption Information sheets published in the OJ and/or in the State aid register between 14.01.2010 and 21.01.2010

European Court of Justice

* 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

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Additional points of interest

Spanish EU Presidency and regional and local leaders discuss CoR report about the implementation of the European recovery plan

European efforts to tackle the economic crisis need better coordination and faster implementation on the ground, was the message of a conference organised by the Spanish EU Presidency and the Committee of the Regions (CoR) in Palma de Mallorca today, the 5th Territorial Dialogue for Sustainable Growth and Jobs. Just weeks before Europe's leaders examine the joint response to the crisis at the 11 February extraordinary summit and the March spring council, high-level speakers from EU institutions, national, regional and local authorities discussed the results of a new grassroots survey conducted by the CoR's EU2020 Monitoring Platform. At this year’s event, participants had an opportunity to debate the future EU2020 Strategy, that gives priority to achieve a sustainable, smarter and greener social market economy.

Read more
**Events**

**State Aid for Environmental Protection**
The seminar is designed for officials from central ministries and/or other authorities dealing with state aid and environmental protection issues and managers from public or private enterprises who may be involved in the formulation and implementation of environmental state aid schemes. This two-day seminar introduces the state aid guidelines for environmental protection as well as the objective and developments of the European Union’s environmental policy. This is followed by an in-depth focus on feed-in tariffs and eco-taxation.

Maastricht, 11-12 February 2010
[For further information, click here](#)

**State Aid Policy and Practice in the European Community - An Integrative and Interactive**
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](#)

**Studies and reports**

**December 2009: Euro area annual inflation up to 0.9%, EU up to 1.4%**
Euro area annual inflation was 0.9% in December 2009, up from 0.5% in November. A year earlier the rate was 1.6%. Monthly inflation was 0.3% in December 2009. The annual average rate of inflation in 2009 was 0.3%, down from 3.3% in 2008. EU annual inflation was 1.4% in December 2009, up from 1.0% in November. A year earlier the rate was 2.2%. Monthly inflation was 0.2% in December 2009. The annual average rate of inflation in 2009 was 1.0%, down from 3.7% in 2008.
[Read more](#)

**Miscellanea**

**806 construction workers in Lithuania to receive help from EU Globalisation Fund**
The European Commission has today approved an application from Lithuania for assistance under the Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF). The Commission will now make a proposal to the European Parliament and the Council to mobilise the budgetary resources. The funding will help 806 workers in the buildings construction sector back into employment. The application – for assistance amounting to €1,118,893 – concerns workers made redundant in 128 small and medium-sized enterprises in the country.
[Read more](#)

**Next publication date: Friday 29.01.2010**

**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: [http://ec.europa.eu/competition/index_en.html](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/](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: Wolfgang Mederer
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