Highlights

**Competition policy for the post-crisis world: A perspective**
Joaquín ALMUNIA, Vice President of the European Commission responsible for Competition Policy
Celebrating ten years of the GCLC, Bruges, 17 January 2014
[Read the full text of the speech](#)

**Commission approves regional aid map 2014-2020 for Slovakia**
The European Commission has approved Slovakia’s map for granting state aid between 2014 and 2020 within the framework of the new regional aid guidelines adopted by the Commission in June 2013 (see [IP/13/569](#)). The new guidelines set out under which conditions Member States can grant state aid to businesses for regional development purposes. They aim to foster growth and promote greater cohesion in the Single Market.
[Read more](#)

**Commission approves amendments to a UK scheme financing small and medium enterprises**
The European Commission has found several amendments to a UK scheme allowing publicly-backed funds to invest in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) affected by a market failure, to be in line with EU state aid rules. The Commission found, in particular, that the measure encourages private investment in SMEs while limiting distortions of competition in the Single Market.
[Read more](#)

**Commission authorises allocation of 404.6 million free greenhouse gas emission allowances for modernisation of Polish electricity sector**
The European Commission has found that Polish plans to allocate free of charge 404.6 million carbon emission allowances for modernising the electricity sector are in line with EU state aid rules. Today, 90% of Poland’s electricity generation is based on coal-fired power stations, which are very carbon-intensive. The Polish investment plan includes more than 340 investment projects with a total value exceeding €28 billion (PLN 119 billion). Those investments will be partially funded through the allocation of free greenhouse gas emission allowances. The Commission found that the funds granted will be used to modernise production infrastructure, diversify the energy mix or build new installations. This will contribute to liberalising energy markets, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the security of supply, in line with EU objectives, without unduly distorting competition in the Single Market.
[Read more](#)

**Commission approves German public service compensation for school bus transport in Rhineland-Palatinate**
The European Commission has found a regional law compensating bus and tram companies in the German Land Rhineland-Palatinate that are obliged to offer tickets at a reduced price to pupils, students and trainees, to be in line with EU State aid rules. The measure ensures affordable school bus transport in Rhineland-Palatinate, while limiting competition distortions in the Single Market.
[Read more](#)

**Commission orders recovery of illegal state aid from Italian maritime company Saremar**
After an in-depth investigation, the European Commission has concluded that part of the support measures that Sardinia had granted to the maritime company Saremar in 2011 and 2012 was incompatible with EU state aid rules. In particular, a capital injection not approved on market conditions and the compensation for carrying out certain maritime services have provided an undue economic advantage to Saremar that its competitors did not have. Saremar needs to pay back this undue advantage of around €10.8 million in total, to remedy the distortion of competition this has created.
[Read more](#)

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- New legislation >>
- Draft legislation and public consultations >>
- Decisions to open formal investigation >>
- Final Commission decisions >>
- Other types of decisions >>
- Block exemptions >>
- Court of Justice of the European Union >>
- Additional points of interest >>
Commission and EIB agree on State aid matters in relation to activities of EIB Group

Joaquín Almunia, European Union Commissioner for Competition, and Werner Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) today issued a joint statement on the interaction between the activities of the EIB Group and State aid control. This joint statement provides a common understanding on the applicable rules and a basis for further cooperation in order to enhance the efficiency of their respective activities.

Read more

The Commission adopts a new regulation on small amounts of aid (de minimis aid) in the primary agricultural production sector

The Commission adopted a regulation aimed at raising the ceiling and clarifying the definition of small amounts of aid (de minimis aid) that can be considered not to constitute state aid.

Read more

New legislation

Communication from the Commission - Guidelines on State aid to promote risk finance investments

OJ C 19 of 22.01.2014, p. 4

Draft legislation and public consultations

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<td>14.03.2014</td>
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<td>Consultation on the draft Union Framework for State aid for Research, Development and Innovation</td>
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<td>Consultation on a draft General Block Exemption Regulation (the GBER) on state aid measures</td>
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<td>Consultation on the Commission services first draft of the new de minimis Regulation replacing Regulation No 875/2007</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.

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DG Agriculture cases
Final Commission decisions

1. Decisions taken by the Commission

1.1. Decisions to close formal investigation

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1.2. No objection decisions

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<td>Amendment to the Programme for Energy Technology Development and Demonstration</td>
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<td>R&amp;D aid</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>R&amp;D&amp;I aid to research organisations and SME’s, R&amp;D&amp;I scheme</td>
<td>SA.37639</td>
<td>R&amp;D aid</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>Regional law on the compensation of school bus transport in the Land Rhineland-Palatinate</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
<td>Renewal of rolling stock for PKP IC to serve the interregional line Warszawa – Szczecin</td>
<td>SA.37673</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
<td>Derogation of Article 10c of Directive 2003/87/EC on emission trading – free allowances to power generators</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Enterprise Capital Funds</td>
<td>SA.36428</td>
<td>Risk capital 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

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| France           | Amélioration de l’espèce équine et promotion de l’élevage  
Positive decision  
OJ L 14 of 18.01.2014, p. 17  

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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| Finland          | Prolongation of "Regional transport subsidy scheme (Finland)"  
(N 88/2008) until 30 June 2014  
OJ C 17 of 21.01.2014, p. 11  
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| Germany      | Richtlinie zur Förderung von innovativen, technologyorientierten Verbundprojekten, Netzwerken und Clustern (Verbundförderung) (Promotion of R+D in collaboration, networks and clusters)  
OJ C 19 of 22.01.2014, p. 1  
bg es cs da de et el en fr hr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv | SA.37475   | R&D aid               | 26.11.2013 |
| Germany      | Prolongation of the Rescue and restructuring aid scheme for SMEs in Brandenburg  
OJ C 14 of 18.01.2014, p. 3  
bg es cs da de et el en fr hr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv | SA.37436   | Rescue aid            | 29.11.2013 |
| Italy        | Incentivi fiscali all'investimento in start-up innovative  
OJ C 17 of 21.01.2014, p. 10  
bg es cs da de et el en fr hr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv | SA.36866   | Risk capital aid      | 05.12.2013 |
| Lithuania    | Prolongation of the Lithuanian regional aid map 2007-2013  
OJ C 20 of 23.01.2014, p. 2  
bg es cs da de et el en fr hr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv | SA.37400   | Regional development aid | 25.10.2013 |
| Romania      | Ro-NET Project  
OJ C 13 of 17.01.2014, p. 3  
bg es cs da de et el en fr hr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv | SA.37558   | Sectoral development aid | 12.12.2013 |
| Spain        | Prolongation of the approved scheme N 593/2008 'Regional aid scheme for investments, job creation and SME support in Andalucia (Spain) - Extension of N 507/2000' until and including 30 June 2014  
OJ C 19 of 22.01.2014, p. 2  
bg es cs da de et el en fr hr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv | SA.37638   | Regional development aid | 03.12.2013 |
| Spain        | Compensation for indirect EU ETS costs  
OJ C 17 of 21.01.2014, p. 8  
bg es cs da de et el en fr hr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv | SA.36650   | Environmental aid      | 14.11.2013 |
| United Kingdom | Extension of the Welsh Assembly Government Rescue and Restructuring Scheme for SMEs  
OJ C 20 of 23.01.2014, p. 4  
bg es cs da de et el en fr hr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv | SA.37226   | Rescue aid              | 12.12.2013 |
| United Kingdom | Finance Wales JEREMIE Fund  
OJ C 20 of 23.01.2014, p. 3  
bg es cs da de et el en fr hr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv | SA.37202   | Risk capital aid        | 26.11.2013 |

**DG Agriculture cases**

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OJ C 14 of 18.01.2014, p. 4  
bg es cs da de et el en fr hr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv | SA.37606   | Agri-environmental commitments | 04.12.2013 |
| Netherlands  | Cultivation matters fund  
OJ C 17 of 21.01.2014, p. 9  
bg es cs da de et el en fr hr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk si fi sv | SA.35932   | R&D aid Technical support | 04.12.2013 |
**United Kingdom**  
Environmental Enhancement Through Agriculture, National Parks (England and Wales) scheme  
OJ C 19 of 22.01.2014, p. 3  
Agri-environmental commitments  
Investment in agricultural holdings  
Technical support  
13.12.2013

### Other types of decisions

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### Block exemptions

Block exemption Information sheets published in the OJ and/or in the State Aid register between 17.01.2014 and 23.01.2014

### Court of Justice of the European Union

* In order to consult the available languages of documents uploaded in the Cuna website, please click on the earth symbol on the left side toolbar.

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<td>SA.34547 - Analyse de la continuité économique dans le cadre de la reprise des actifs de Sernam.</td>
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Additional points of interest

**Events**

**European Competition Forum 2014**  
Brussels, 11 February 2014  
[For further information, click here](#)

**State Aid Procedures and Enforcement: the SANI System**  
EIPA  
Maastricht, 10-11 March 2014  
[For further information, click here](#)

**Studies and reports**

Eurostat: Third quarter of 2013 compared with second quarter of 2013  
Euro area government debt down to 92.7% of GDP, EU28 up to 86.8% of GDP. First decrease in absolute terms for the euro area since fourth quarter of 2007.  
At the end of the third quarter of 2013, the government debt to GDP ratio in the euro area (EA17) stood at 92.7%, compared with 93.4% at the end of the second quarter of 2013, the first fall in absolute terms since the fourth quarter of 2007. In the EU28 the ratio increased from 86.7% to 86.8%, mainly due to exchange rate effects. Compared with the third quarter of 2012, the government debt to GDP ratio rose in both the euro area (from 90.0% to 92.7%) and the EU28 (from 84.9% to 86.8%).  
[Read more](#)

**Invitations to tender**

- none -

**Council of the European Union**

- none -

**Miscellanea**

**Economic governance: Pressing need for legitimacy and social dimension**  
MEPs and national parliamentarians concluded their conference on economic governance on Wednesday by calling for much better dialogue, ownership and democratic legitimacy. They also committed to enhancing the way in which their parliaments worked with each other and said effective scrutiny required more collaboration.  
[Read more](#)

**Competitiveness, Growth, Employment – what strategy for the EU**  
Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for inter-institutional relations and administration.  
Conference 20 years after the White Paper/Brussels, 22 January 2014  
[Read the full text of the speech](#)

Next publication date: Friday 31.01.2014

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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